LIFESTYLE / D1

Lessons
on the wonders
of Catalan cuisine

BUSINESS / B1

Peso strengthens,
hits 6-month high of
50.945 against dollar

METRO / A19

9 injured
in demolition
in Taguig City

ACROSS / A15

6 persons, including mother
and her 3 children, drown
in flooding in Cebu City

Battle of 2 Ninoy movies looms

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE 14 SOLDIERS CONVICTED IN THE Aquino-Galman double murder case may never walk free. But they apparently believe a movie about their lives in prison would clear them from "certain lies and cover-ups."

New Bilibid Prisons Chaplain Msgr. Robert Olaguer yesterday said such a movie would

BATTLE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, August 31, 2006 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 264 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Slick-free resorts cash in on oil spill tourism

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

NUEVA VALENCIA, Guimaras—Call it oil spill tourism.

All is not lost for beach resorts in the province whose tourism industry is

SLICK-FREE/ A8

COME AND SEE THE OIL SPILL

PRC: No retake of exams

Adjusted grades add 499 to list of passers

**By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christine O. Avendaño**

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission has come up with a formula that it believes will put to rest the cheating controversy surrounding the June nursing board exams—maintaining that "passers" will not retake the exams, and nullifying 90 of the 100 questions under Test V.

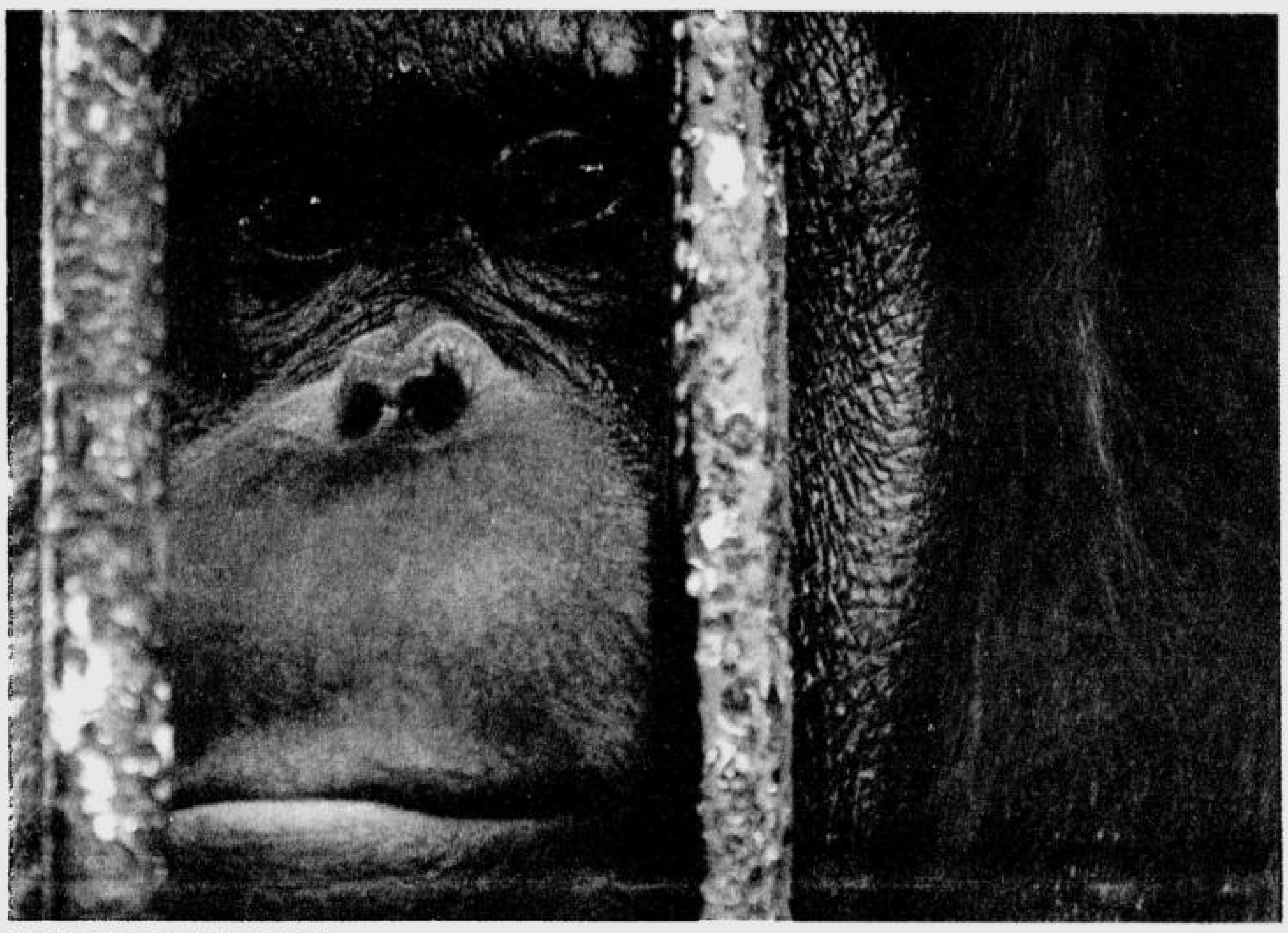
The formula would even increase the number of passers by 499, PRC Chair Leonor Tripon Rosero yesterday told the House committees on civil service and good government.

Rosero said the formula was a "fair and impartial way" of putting closure to the controversy.

"Oh yes, it's fair to all. So we released the (recomputed) results of the board exam. That's already fair to everyone even to those who failed," Rosero told reporters shortly after the hearing.

In another controversial move, the PRC gave a 2-percent bonus to those who got 73 percent, raising their scores to 75 percent. The

PRC/ A6



WHAT IS SHE THINKING?
Sisi, a sad-eyed 27-year-old orangutan, looks out of her enclosure at the Manila Zoo on Wednesday. She is all alone in her cage and far, far away from home in the Bornean jungles.
REUTERS

'With 2 to 3 typhoons, this will normalize'

**By Blanche S. Rivera,
Alcuin Papa
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
Inquirer Visayas

"WITH TWO TO THREE TYPHOONS, THIS will normalize," Science Undersecretary Graciano Yumul Jr. yesterday said of the massive oil spill in Western Visayas.

Scientists have expressed confidence that the waves would naturally wash out the bunker fuel oil from the sunken MT Solar I, which has spoiled beaches, poisoned mangroves and contaminated the rich fishing grounds in the region.

Not 200,000 liters but 1.3 million liters have leaked out of the sunken tanker, according to Yumul.

MT Solar I was carrying 2.1 millions liter of bunker fuel oil when it went down on Aug. 11 in Guimaras Strait, according to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

The PCG estimated that the amount of oil that had leaked from the sunken vessel since it sunk on Aug. 11 was between 200,000 and 300,000 liters.

Yumul also said that not 220 km but only 99.6 km of coastline were affected by the oil spill.

Citing radar satellite maps and educated estimates by scientists, Yumul gave the new numbers that indicated the oil spill, which

WITH 2/ A8

Captain erred, says shipping firm head

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE CAPTAIN OF MT SOLAR I MADE A "wrong decision" when he resumed its voyage to Zamboanga del Sur amid bad weather that caused it to sink, according to the president of tanker owner Sunshine Maritime Development Corp.

Testifying before the Special Board of Marine Inquiry, Sunshine Maritime president Clemente Cancio said it was Captain Norberto Aguro's own decision to set sail for Zamboanga after seeking shelter at the Iloilo anchorage area near Guimaras to escape rough seas and to check on the condition of the tanker.

The sinking of the tanker has led to a massive oil spill in Western Visayas, which was declared a national calamity by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"In hindsight, I would believe he made the wrong decision," Cancio, referring to Aguro, said in response to a question from the SBMI chair, Rear Admiral Danilo Abinoja.

Abinoja asked Cancio if he thought it would have been prudent for Aguro to wait for the weather to improve before going to Zamboanga. Cancio answered that the company's safety officer had given Aguro the discretion on whether to go or stay put where he had sought shelter.

Cancio said the safety officer had asked Aguro whether everything was all right, and the latter said it was and proceeded with the voyage.

Pressed whether he believed the captain's decision was wrong, Cancio said he thought as much.

Aguro testified the other day that the tanker encountered bad weather off An-

CAPTAIN/ A8

Probers tag soldiers in Albay pastor's murder

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR A CHRISTIAN FACT-FINDING MISSION, the Melo Commission should find little difficulty identifying those behind the murder of a United Methodist pastor in Daraga, Albay.

Evidence gathered by the 12-member team from the United Methodist Church pointed to soldiers of the Army's 9th Infantry Division as the killers of Pastor Isaias Sta. Rosa, 47, who was riddled with gunfire by 10 masked men on Aug. 3 outside his house at Barangay Malobago.

Sta. Rosa was a member of the leftist Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bicol.

"The action was officially sanctioned by the military and in fact followed the chain of command," lawyer Ephraim Cortez, a member of the investigating team, said in a press conference yesterday.

Cortez said the team investigated the case from Aug. 12 to 14 and was prepared to turn over its evidence to the commission headed by former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo that was tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into extrajudicial killings.

PROBERS/ A9

DISAPPEARAN
DISAPPEAR
MISSING
LEOPOLDO
June 2, 2000
Guiguinto, Bulacan
Federico Lopez, Jr.

PATRICK Carl Macario, 8, and Marjorie Salvador, 5, join Wednesday's commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared at Plaza Miranda in Manila.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Police offer to protect businessmen from NPA

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE YESTERDAY OFFERED protection to businessmen who are targets of extortion by the communist New People's Army in exchange for information that could be used to neutralize the rebels.

"We are open (to them) reporting to us, if they are victims of extortions by the NPA, and we will guarantee their protection," Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon said.

The identity of the businessmen will be guarded, said Calderon a day after Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales denounced the NPA for allegedly engaging in "downright gangsterism" after a rebel group torched a truck belonging to a Bacolod City company that refused to pay millions in "revolutionary taxes."

Police have mapped out areas—notably in southern and central Luzon, Bicol and Cagayan Valley—where the alleged extortion activities of the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, are reportedly rampant.

Calderon called these areas the milking pastures that provide the NPA a "financial support system."

The Armed Forces has estimated that the rebels are collecting at least P30 million monthly in Mindanao, P20 million in Central Luzon, and about the same amount in southern Luzon.

Another source of communist funding is the fees paid by politicians in order to campaign in guerrilla-influenced areas during elections.

Rosales' Akbayan is one of sev-

POLICE/ A9

India taxman shows way in fight against corruption

By Fe Zamora

MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

A WORLD FREE OF BRIBE IS IMpossible, but people can always dream of one where they can fight corruption and injustice.

Arvind Kejriwal, a tax collector in New Delhi and one of this year's Ramon Magsaysay awardees, yesterday showed how his countrymen empowered themselves by demanding transparency in all government transactions.

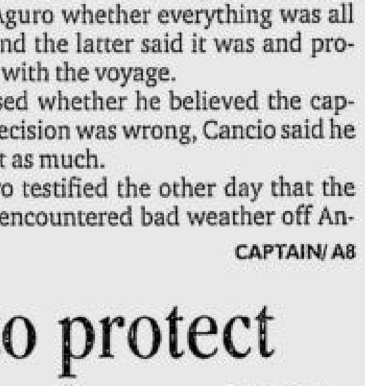
Kejriwal, 38, said ordinary citizens had been able to demand full accounting of government projects by invoking the Right to Information Act which the Indian government enacted in 2001.

"Right to information is about truth coming out in public domain. It is about transparency. It is about ethical governance," he said in a lecture at the Ramon Magsaysay Center titled "The Anatomy of Corruption: Exercising the People's Right to Information."

In recognition of his efforts that activated India's right-to-information movement on the grass-roots level, empowering the capital's poorest citizens to fight corruption by holding the government accountable, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation will confer on Kejriwal today the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership. *(See story on Page A3.)*

The six other awardees of Asia's version of the Nobel Prize are the Philippines' Eugenia Duran-Apostol, founding chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, for journalism, and businessman Antonio Meloto and the charity he leads called the Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation; Cambodia's Ek Sonn

INDIA/ A9


RODEL ROTONI

KEJRIWAL: Power of information

Second FRONTPAGE
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/30/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Defense in Erap trial rests

THE MULTIMILLION-PESO PLUNDER and perjury charges against deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday moved one step closer to resolution after defense lawyers rested their case before the Sandiganbayan special division.

Defense lawyers led by former Sen. Rene Saguisag and Jose Flaminiano concluded Estrada's defense after presenting 80 witnesses in last two years of the five-year-old plunder and perjury trial that started after Estrada stepped down from Malacañang amid massive street protests.

'Saguisag, after yesterday's hearing,' said that their panel is confident that it has successfully countered each of the pieces of evidence presented by the prosecution in the plunder and perjury raps. He does not expect a verdict until next year.

The prosecution presented 76 witnesses led by the chief whistleblower in Estrada's impeachment trial, his former crony and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson—and 1,500 pieces of evidence from October 2001 to April 2003.

Before the defense lawyers' rested their case in yesterday's hearing, they submitted as documentary evidence certified true copies of President Macapagal-Arroyo's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth from 1998 to 2005.

The SALN's were provided by the Office of the Ombudsman upon the request of the defense lawyers.

"This will prove that there was selective prosecution (to the detriment) of our client," Saguisag said.

The defense's case of selective prosecution is anchored on the facts that while Estrada was charged with perjury when he failed to declare investments in a few corporations, other elected government officials were given certain concessions regarding entries that should have been made but weren't.

"Some officials were allowed to just make amendments in their SALN. In the case of Mr. Estrada, he was charged," he said.

Comelec takes up initiative petition today

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS WILL MEET IN executive session today to decide on the petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution filed by the Sigaw ng Bayan and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

According to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., there was already a consensus among six commissioners, himself included, on the petition seeking to change the form of government to a parliamentary unicameral system.

"This is an easy battle. [This issue] has been in the air for the past few months. It's impossible for the commissioners not to have a consensus. It's just a matter of reducing our consensus to a written resolution," he said.

On allegations of irregularities in the collection and verification of signatures for the initiative, Abalos said the Comelec would determine this issue once it decides that it has jurisdiction over the initiative petition.

Barred by SC

In 1997, the Supreme Court barred the Comelec from entertaining any petition for initiative on amendments to the Constitution because of the absence of an enabling law.

The high tribunal said the law on referendums and initiatives, RA 6735, was inadequate to effect amendments to the Constitution.

Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap has asked the Comelec to verify the 8.5 million signatures it collected nationwide in a petition for a people's initiative to change the Constitution.

Meanwhile, the Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (Codal) yesterday became the ninth group to file an opposition to the initiative petition.

Codal convenors Neri Javier Colmenares and Marvic Leonen and member Floriza Almodiel cited the same issues raised by other petitioners—that the initiative petition cannot be entertained by the Comelec because of the Supreme Court prohibition and that it is invalid because it seeks the revision of, and not mere amendments to, the Charter.

The group also agreed with lawyer Rene Saguisag Jr. of the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism Inc that the petition was "pinned on the presumption or expectancy that the Supreme Court may change its mind."

"Nobody has the right to second guess the Court, much less challenge its determination in a manner that borders on direct challenge to its authority to pronounce what the law is," Codal said.

The group also wanted Abalos disqualified from the en banc deliberations on the petition because he allegedly "publicly pre-judged the issue and supported the legitimacy and constitutionality of the verification of the signatures."

One voice

Lawyer Ray Paolo Santiago of the OneVoice citizens' group yesterday pointed to a provision in the initiative petition that would allow an interim parliament to convene and propose even more amendments to the Constitution.

If the amendments in the original petition were to be approved through a referendum, there will be a transitory period during which the current Senate and House of Representatives, together with Cabinet and the Vice President, would be merged to form an interim Parliament, Santiago said.

Meanwhile, the country's barangay leaders yesterday complained that they were being left out of the Charter change process.

Marinduque board member James Marty Lim, president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, said barangay leaders were not consulted by the Ulap on the final draft of the petition.

"Honestly, I myself have yet to see a copy of the petition," said Lim who was interviewed on the sidelines of a preparatory conference for the league's national convention this year. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

GMA backs both initiative, Con-Ass

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO supports the people's initiative for constitutional amendments being promoted by the Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines just as she supports a House of Representatives move to convene Congress into a constituent assembly to revise the Constitution.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President supported both modes because she wanted Charter change to happen.

Ermita made these statements as he sought to assure Mike Velarde, the leader of the influential El Shaddai charismatic group, that the people's initiative to amend the Charter was constitutional.

Velarde, who is opposed to the people's initiative, wants Ms Arroyo to declare her position on the people's initiative, threatening to mobilize his millions of supporters to block efforts to change the Constitution through that mode.

"The policy of the President is to have political reforms through Charter change and therefore she welcomes the development [the people's initiative]," Ermita said at his weekly Palace briefing.

"I'm sure [Velarde] understands it is one of the modes provided for in the Constitution," he said.

Ermita said Velarde may have said what he did "to make the national leadership aware of the stand of such a big religious group."

"But still we have to go by the provision of the Constitution, we cannot take a stand against what Ulap and Sigaw ng bayan have done because that is constitutional," Ermita said.

He said the President also welcomed House moves to gather 195 signatures to convene a constituent assembly.

The executive secretary said he was not aware of any meeting yesterday between the President and Velarde on the matter.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang could only appeal for "enlightened and sober debates" on Charter change, insisting that it was the people who were clamoring for it.

"But whichever of the two modes already on stream comes first, whether a people's initiative or a constituent assembly, is something that the courts and eventually the people will decide," he said.

Christine O. Avendaño

Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight & Obesity
3rd POSTGRADUATE COURSE 12th ANNUAL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 1 & 2, 2006 Century Park Hotel Grand Ballroom
"WINNING THE WAR AGAINST OBESITY"

The Philippine College of Physicians extends its warmest congratulation to the Officers, Board of Directors and Members of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity on the occasion of your 3rd Postgraduate Course and 12th Annual Convention in 1-2 September 2006 at the Century Park Hotel, Manila.
The problem of obesity in our country today is real and poses a constant challenge to us physicians, specialists or non-specialists, and to some of our allies in the health profession, the dieticians and nutritionists. With the latest updates and advances in the management of obesity that your scientific program offers, we hope the participants will see this as an opportunity to enrich their knowledge and expertise in the assessment and approach to weight management.
We wish you success in this endeavor and in all your future undertaking in the years to come.

RENE I. JUANEZA, MD., FPCP
President
Philippine College of Physicians

Obesity Awareness and Prevention Week is here again, to remind us that obesity is one of the growing epidemics of our society.
Let me reiterate my message last year: "Several health hazards and social disabilities co-exist and/or are caused by obesity. Increased mortality is associated with increased body weight. Heart disease, diabetes mellitus, gallbladder disease, high blood pressure and cancer which are the results of obesity also cause the high mortality rate in these individuals. Lipid abnormalities, stroke, venous stasis, pulmonary abnormalities which include obstructive sleep apnea, are the other conditions which accompany obesity. Gout and reproductive abnormalities are common in obese women. Osteoarthritis of the knees and spine occur as well as the risk for endometrial and breast cancer. Colon cancer may be an outcome in obese men.
"Social isolation, loss of job mobility, increased absenteeism from work, economic and social discrimination form what are recognized as parts of the psychosocial dysfunctions of obesity."
Indeed, obesity wreaks havoc on the individual and ultimately on the family and on society. We again call on all to heed the dangers of obesity and rise to this call to arms to fight this menace, this year again and the years to come.

Augusto D. Litonjua, MD
Overall Chairman, 2006 Annual Convention

I am pleased to welcome you to the 3rd postgraduate course hosted by the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO). This year's course highlights the advances in our understanding of the mechanisms of obesity through recognizing new concepts of inflammation and liver steatosis as a fat storage disease. Focus on obesity management will be special conditions and populations, particularly children, pregnant women and the elderly.
This year, we shall have a repeat of the successful and highly attended comprehensive break-out sessions featuring screening and evaluation, dietary counseling, physical activity prescription and pharmacotherapy of a typical case of obesity. Endocrinologists, nutritionists and exercise physiologists will facilitate these interactive discussions. Basic and advanced courses will be offered to the participants.
I encourage every physician, nutritionist, nurse educator and exercise physiologist in the care of overweight and obese patients to actively participate in these exciting inter-active sessions. Let us all join hands to prevent this epidemic of obesity and its complications.

Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco
Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD, FPCP, FPSEM
Course Director
3rd Postgraduate Course
& Secretary, PASOO

Welcome to the 12th Annual Convention of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity with its theme "Winning the War against Obesity"
Obesity has now become a global concern. In fact, we in the Philippines are beginning to see the growing problem of overweight and obesity not only among adults but among children as well. It no longer is a problem only among the affluent, we see it growing among the lower segments of our society. It has become not only an individual problem confined to the clinics, but a public health concern, requiring public health strategies and solutions to win the war against obesity.
Thus, this year's convention starts with examining the What, Why and Wherefore of Obesity in the Philippines, and ends with the prospects of success of community interventions. It delves on the genetic origins of obesity, and examines the effectiveness of paramedical interventions that have gained the attention of the public because of their promise of success spread by attractive advertisements in the media.
We hope that you, the participants from interrelated disciplines, will find this convention fruitful and enlightening. At the same time we acknowledge the efforts of the organizing committee, together with the support of industry, in making this year's convention a success.

RODOLFO F. FLORENTINO, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, Scientific Committee
12th PASOO Annual Convention
Member, Board of Directors, PASOO

Today, more than any time, we in the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO) are stressing the crucial role physical activity plays in our lives.
This annual Fitness Walk is to increase public awareness and participation. One does not need gym or special sports to be physically active. You can walk anywhere, anytime -- but walk regularly.
Our walking event has for our team the "5-Minute Challenge – Fit Ka Ba?" It will be held on August 27, 2006 at 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. at the Pasay City Promenade behind the Mall of Asia. There will be a Sunday mass at 7:30 a.m. in the south Mall of Asia followed by a short program.
Please join us in promoting this health and fitness event as it is open to everyone!
Warmly,

Sanirose S. Orbeta
Sanirose S. Orbeta, MS, RD, FADA
Chair-Fitness Walk 2006
Vice-President, PASOO

3rd Postgraduate Course
Day 1 - Sept. 1, 2006 (Friday)Century Park Hotel, Grand Ballroom
0730 – 0830 Registration
0800 – 0830 National Anthem
Invocation
Welcome -- Augusto D. Litonjua, MD
President, PASOO
Opening Remarks -- Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD
Course Director,
3rd Postgrad Course & Secretary, PASOO
0830 – 0945 SYMPOSIUM I
Chairman: Rosa Allyn G Sy MD
Advances in Understanding Obesity and its Management
"Inflammation and Obesity: New Field for Therapy?"
-- Augusto D. Litonjua, MD, FPCP, FPSEM
"Non-alcoholic liver steatosis: a fat storage disease"
-- Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco MD, FPCP, FPSEM
0945 – 1015 Opening of exhibits / Coffee break
1015 – 1130 SYMPOSIUIM II
-- Chairman. Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD
1015 – 1045 Obesity Management in Special Conditions and Populations
"Pregnancy, Lactation and Childhood Obesity: First Step of a Future Epidemic"
-- Ma. Asuncion A. Silvestre, MD
1045 – 1115 *"Obesity in the Elderly: Should we treat?"*
-- Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD, FPCP, FPSEM
1115 – 1130 OPEN FORUM
1130 – 1300 LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
A. ROCHE (Century Ballroom) B. THERAPHARMA (Park Ballroom)
1300 – 1330 Break / Booth visit
1330 – 1630 WORKSHOPS: The Obesity Clinic
1330 – 1615 Group Workshop
Advanced Workshop

Speaker	Group 1 / (Century Ballroom) Topic
Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD	Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Eval
Prof. Hercules P. Callanta	Physical Activity Prescription
Sanirose S. Orbeta, MSRD, FADA	Dietary Management and Counselling
Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD	Use of Pharmacotherapy: Case Discussions

Speaker	Group 2 / (Park Ballroom) Topic
Roberto C. Mirasol, MD	Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Eval
Prof. Mario Eloisa D. Ulanday	Physical Activity Prescription
Gabriel V. Jasul, Jr., MD	Dietary Management and Counselling
Laura T. Acampado, MD	Use of Pharmacotherapy: Case Discussions

Basic Workshop

Speaker	Group 3 / (Kachina Room) Topic
Jocelyn Jayme-Wohldorf, MD	Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Eval
Prof. Marvin Luis C. Sabado	Physical Activity Prescription
Margarita Galchalian, RND	Dietary Management and Counselling
Joy C Fontanilla, MD	Use of Pharmacotherapy: Case Discussions

Speaker	Group 4 / (Corregidor Room) Topic
Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD	Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Eval
Mr. Peter Dajime	Physical Activity Prescription
Mrs. Celeste C. Tanchoco, MPH, RND	Dietary Management and Counselling
Joselynna Afiel-Quimpo, MD	Use of Pharmacotherapy: Case Discussions

1615 – 1630 Summary and Closing Remarks
-- Sanirose S. Orbeta, MS, RD, FADA

12th Annual Convention
Day 2 - Sept. 2, 2006 (Saturday)Century Park Hotel, Grand Ballroom
0730 – 0830 Registration
0830 – 0900 Invocation
National Anthem
Welcome – Augusto D. Litonjua, MD
President, PASOO
Opening Remarks – Rodolfo F. Florentino, MD
Scientific Chair 12th Annual Conv.
Inspirational Message -- Dr. Gauden Galea
Regional Adviser
Non- Communicable Diseases
Western Pacific Regional Office, WHO
0900 – 0940 PLENARY I
Chair Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD
"Abdominal Obesity & Metabolic Syndrome as a Predictor of Type 2 Diabetes"
-- Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, MD, FPCP, FPSEM
0940 - 1030 Coffee Break
1030 - 1140 SYMPOSIUM I
Chair: Ms. Felicidad V. Velandria, RND
Epidemiology: The What, Why and Wherefore of Obesity?
Obesity Through The Life Cycle
-- Rodolfo F. Florentino, MD, PhD
Goodbye BMI -- Come in WHR
-- Antonio Miguel L. Dans, MD, FPCP
OPEN FORUM
1140 – 1330 LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
A. PFIZER (Century Ballroom) B. SANOFI-AVENTIS (Park Ballroom)
1330 – 1410 PLENARY II
Chair: Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD
Gene-Environment Interaction in Obesity
-- Eva Maria Cutiongco-Dela Paz, MD
1410 – 1510 INTERACTIVE SESSION:
Controversies on alternative management of Obesity:
Paramedical practices -- Are they effective?
Chair: Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD
Cosmetic surgery: The best and easiest way to lose weight and look good?
-- Florencio Q. Lucero, MD
Use of mesotherapy. An option in the management of obesity?
-- Joseph Fernan DL. Ortiz, MD
Contribution of health clubs, spas and gym in weight management.
The popular way to lose weight?
-- Ariel S. Torres, MD
1510 – 1530 Break/Booth visit
1530 1630 COMMUNITY INTERVENTION:
Prospects of Success
Chair: Ramon F. Abarquez, Jr., MD, FPCP
1530 – 1555 *What is the government doing to control the growing Obesity epidemic?*
The HL Campaign
-- Josefina Tuazon, Dr.Ph
1555 – 1620 *Healthy-weight promoting schools*
-- Celeste C. Tanchoco, RND
1620 – 1635 *Corporate / Industry Wellness Program*
-- Aileli Elizabeth Gana-Magtibay, RND
1635 – 1645 Open Forum
1645 – 1700 Closing Remarks
-- Mrs. Sanirose S. Orbeta, MS, RD, FADA

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EK SONN CHAN

PARK WON SOON

EUGENIA APOSTOL

SANDUK RUIT

ARVIND KEJRIWAL

ANTONIO MELOTO

PHOTOS BY ROBEL ROTONI

Asian achievers honored with RM awards today

By Margaux C. Ortiz

SIX OUTSTANDING ASIAN achievers, including the founding chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, will receive the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award—touted as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize—in ceremonies at the Cultural Center of the Philippines today.

The recipients of "Asia's highest honor" were presented to the press by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) on Tuesday. They are Cambodian government official Ek Sonn Chan, Korean public servant Park Won Soon, Filipino journalist and publisher Eugenia Apostol, Nepalese doctor Sanduk Ruit, Indian leader Arvind Kejriwal, and Filipino community builder Antonio Meloto.

The Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation, which Meloto heads, also received a Magsaysay Award for "harnessing the faith and generosity of Filipinos the world over to confront poverty in the Philippines and provide every family the dignity of a decent home and neighborhood."

"The awardees are not usually people in the public eye. They are modest and they operate very quietly," said Emily Abrera , the chair of the RMAF board of trustees.

Secret search

Explaining the process by which the awardees are chosen every year, Abrera said the research into the background of the nominees was carried out "under covert circumstances."

Until the foundation informs them that they had been chosen, the awardees are not even aware that they had been nominated, she explained.

Apostol, who was recognized for "her courageous example in placing the truth-telling press at the .center of the struggle for democratic rights and better government in the Philippines," said in a short speech that she had nothing new to say to her friends in the media.

"But I learned a new phrase that I hope you will like," she said.

She said that at a meeting with the awardees, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., the son of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, after whom the awards are named, had called the media a "disturbing presence."

"Don't you think that's a beautiful phrase? The press should always be a disturbing presence in their own countries," Apostol said.

Apostol, who won the award for journalism, literature and creative communication, has been cited many times for her editorial publishing achievements, particularly for her role in the anti-Marcos movement with her Mr & Ms Special Edition, the forerunner of the INQUIRER. The Pinoy Times tabloid newspaper that she set up in 1999 buoyed the movement to oust then President Estrada for corruption and incompetence.

Filipino pride

Meloto, the second Filipino recipient, was recognized for "inspiring Filipinos to believe with pride that theirs can be a nation without slums."

"This award is an affirmation that we can make a difference in our country if we rise above our own differences," said Meloto who received the community leadership award.

Drawing on the support of the Church-based Couples for Christ, Meloto transformed a poor barangay into a viable neighborhood with sturdy and attractive houses. It became the first Gawad Kalinga village.

Today, there are more than 800 Gawad Kalinga villages in the Philippines. The organization, which also received the community leadership award, aims to build 7,000 new communities by 2010.

Ek, who heads the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority, was given the government service award for his exemplary rehabilitation of the Cambodian capital's broken-down water system and for delivering safe drinking water to a million people.

The award for peace and international understanding went to Ruit, an eye doctor who introduced new techniques in cataract surgery to Nepal and other Asian countries, "enabling the needlessly blind in even the poorest countries to see again."

The foundation cited Kejriwal for emergent leadership for activating India's right-to-information movement at the grassroots, through the organization he founded, Parivartan, which means "change."

Fighting corruption

Kejriwal's initiatives empowered New Delhi's poorest citizens to fight corruption by holding the Indian government answerable to the people.

Park was recognized for heading The Beautiful Foundation, aimed at rekindling the Korean habit of generosity and popularize philanthropy.

Park, who received the award for public service, challenged individuals and companies to donate one percent of their income or time to the needy. Since his foundation was formed, some 26,000 people have heeded Park's call.

The RMAF, with Anvil Publishing, also launched last Tuesday Volumes 3 to 5 of its "Great Men and Women of Asia" series. The collection features the biographies of the South and Northeast Asian recipients and their life work which embody the awards' tradition of "greatness of spirit in selfless service to the people."

On the eve of the 99th birth anniversary of his late father, Senator Magsaysay yesterday decried the "sorry state of governance" in the country, putting the blame on the "government's silence" on many unresolved graft cases.

"If he were alive today, I am certain he [the late President Magsaysay] would question the twin scourge of the Garcillano and Bolante cover-ups, the nursing exams scandal, the unresolved and forgotten jueteng issue, the military unrest, the appointment of unfit civil servants, the extra-judicial killings of activists and mediamen, and the ugly bickering of pro- and anti-Charter change advocates," Magsaysay said in a privilege speech.

He said the root of all these problems was graft and corruption and that those behind the cases reported almost on a daily basis by media were "people in power and authority." *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Military, Abu Sayyaf swap casualty claims in Jolo clashes

A LEADER OF THE AL-QAIDA-linked Abu Sayyaf group said yesterday at least five members have been killed in a month-long US-backed military offensive in the southern Philippines, but claimed the rebels dealt heavy casualties on government troops.

The military said Abu Sulaiman's claim was untrue, saying only three marine and army troops have died and 31 others wounded during the offensives that started Aug. 1 on Jolo island. More than 10 Abu Sayyaf rebels have been killed and troops captured at least one rebel encampment with a bomb-making area, military spokesman Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said.

"This is purely propaganda. The group is feeling the pressure of the offensives and wants to divert the focus of our troops," Bacarro said.

Sulaiman, on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists, said the Abu Sayyaf is not intimidated by the American military helping Philippine troops tasked with wiping them out.

"Do you think you scare us with your high-tech weaponry and gadgets? We are only afraid of Allah and the day of judgment," Sulaiman said in a statement sent to news agencies.

He said Abu Sayyaf rebels immediately enforced a counterplan after government troops launched their assaults, with clashes spreading near the mountainous towns of Indanan, Patikul and Sulu. He claimed the guerrillas killed as many as 50 soldiers.

Marine Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban said troops were continuing the assaults, stressing Americans were providing help but were not engaged in combat as Sulaiman claimed.

Evidence that troops gathered in the bomb-making area bolster long-held suspicions that the militants continue to plot attacks in Jolo and elsewhere in the country, Sabban said.

Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani and two Indonesian militants belonging to the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah group, Umar Patek and Dulmatin, remain on Jolo and are targets of the offensives, Sabban said.

Washington has offered as much as $5 million for the capture of Janjalani, Sulaiman and other Abu Sayyaf commanders. It has also offered huge rewards for Patek and Dulmatin, who goes by one name. The Indonesians are suspected masterminds of the 2002 nightclub bombings in Bali, Indonesia, that killed 202 people and are believed to have fled to the southern Philippines shortly after the attacks.

American troops, meanwhile, inaugurated two all-purpose community centers on Jolo as part of a months-long humanitarian mission. The US-funded centers could be used to provide a range of services, including medical treatment, to impoverished villagers, US officials said.

"This development will bring jobs, better educational opportunities, better medical care for these communities, something the Abu Sayyaf group and the Jemaah Islamiyah cannot offer," US Army commander Col. James Linder said.

The Abu Sayyaf, which the government dismisses as a group of bandits, used to have more than 1,000 men at the height of a kidnapping spree in the southern Philippines. Its strength has been whittled down to about 400 men, who are mostly on the run from offensives, the military says. AP

She gave birth just 9 months ago...
Look at Dawn Now!

After the joys of childbirth, the battle to bring back that whistle-bait figure after 9 months of fat build-up and unsightly postnatal changes is very challenging. Actress Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo eagerly shares how she was able to transform her body from miserable to bare-able!

Although she swears that every pound she gained was worth it for her son Jacobo, Dawn animatedly recalls the depression and insecurity she felt upon seeing her inflated body right after childbirth. She says, "Coming from a pregnancy, it was very frustrating since I couldn't do much about my excess weight. Given my post-caesarian condition, I was temporarily barred from doing any taxing activity that, for a moment, I already contemplated on getting liposuction as a desperate measure."

After considering all the horrors of liposuction, Dawn dropped the idea of any surgical procedure. She candidly utters, "I don't want to look like a *longganisa* after going under the knife!" Giving justice to her comment she explains, "I don't want the uneven curves that liposuction often produces. I know people who have regretted their decision after the ripple-like curves start to form and become visible on their bodies. It's really ugly. Add to it the fact that it's not just expensive, but most importantly, it can be quite dangerous."

It was at this point that she chanced upon Marie France's slimming system. "Upon finding out that all their treatments are non-invasive, I immediately gave it a try. The next thing I know, I was dramatically losing all the unwanted pounds and inches of flab," Dawn narrates. "And then finally, after shedding all that fat, I found out about Marie France's newest treatment, Ultrashape. It was the perfect finishing touch for people who have lost weight but still have some lumps and bumps that just won't seem to go away. It really re-sculpts your body and shows off your curves. I was lucky that I was one of the first to try this amazing technology. After my first treatment, I immediately said to myself 'wow, it's perfect!' Ultrashape definitely has all the benefits of lipo minus the surgery and all the risks! There's no downtime whatsoever."

According to Dawn, the treatment takes an hour and a half and is done once a month. Four to five treatments are normally recommended. Flaunting her flat stomach, she proudly says, "The effect is already visible as early as the first treatment, would you believe! I was pleasantly surprised to see my tummy flatten. It boosted my confidence that I started treatment on my thighs soon after. So you see, liposuction is unnecessary."

Asked if she experienced any discomfort during the treatment, Dawn reveals, "No, not at all. The treatment was very relaxing. It was painless. The doctor explained that Ultrashape destroys the fat cells in the targeted areas like my stomach and thighs. From there, the fat is metabolized and burned naturally by my body as energy. Before I knew it, my body's once again capable of wearing even the skimpiest of outfits like a bikini. I'm confident because I have nothing more to hide. I've got the body of a sexy 20something woman even if I'm already 37 and have just given birth!"

Not the least bothered as to the criticisms people might cook up about her latest and sexiest print ad to date, Dawn coolly shrugs her shoulders and says, "We're getting out of the stereotype. Even if you're a mommy, it shouldn't strip you off the pleasure to look and feel good about yourself." She adds, "Like in my case, having a sexier and fitter body now makes me more excited to do a lot of productive things because the confidence is there. If my family and I were to go to the beach, I can go out and frolic in my two-piece swimsuit without *tapis*. When I'm free from insecurities, I make my husband more proud of me because we are both able to enjoy our quality moments with enthusiasm." Dawn continues, "It doesn't matter if you're in your thirties or forties because as women, we owe it to ourselves to always look good. Every woman can achieve the sexy body she wants if she only sets her mind to it. There's so many choices out there and Marie France offers a lot. It caters to women with safe and effective solutions for whatever problem their body has."

Prior to ending the conversation, Dawn shifts to a joking mood as she highlights, "Just beware of the consequences of Ultrashape. You'll definitely start looking more delicious to your husband and you just might find yourself pregnant again!"

Call Marie France at 894-BODY (2639) for a free consultation.

Show your faces, Gonzalez tells UP naked runners

By Armand N. Nocum

TAKE OFF YOUR MASKS AND run naked.

This was the dare of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to University of the Philippines fraternity men next time they run naked to show their conviction in fighting for academic and other rights.

"That's nothing. I would have a high regard for them if they will remove their masks," Gonzalez said Tuesday after the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity in UP held an oblation run four months ahead of the Dec. 16 original schedule.

The run was in reaction to Gonzalez' statement that the premier state college has been a breeding ground of destabilizers and people running around naked.

"They should remove their masks to show that they are not ashamed of themselves ... of what they are doing. Why are they covering their faces?" Gonzalez said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

In their run Monday, APO members carried placards saying: "We serve the people who pay for our education."

Last Saturday, Gonzalez lamented that apart from producing individuals useful to society, UP has been churning out students who are out to bring down the government.

"That school always breeds the destabilizers that haunt the country year after year. They are acting as if they are the only ones who know how to run the country," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER Saturday.

But he clarified that he was not hitting the entire UP student population because "there are many students there who are bright and good."

Gonzalez pointed to the Oblation Run of the APO Fraternity as another indication of the kind of students that come from the school.

"I doff my head off to them because they initiate the running of naked people ... that's also one kind of culture that they develop there," he said as he raised hopes that in the future, more women will join the run held in December.

"Maybe we are going to that direction ... there are now women running naked. I will not be surprised if they will go to school with only their books, nothing more," he said.

Gonzalez lamented that UP has been the site of numerous protest rallies and symposiums calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"In every storm that takes place, UP students are in the forefront," he said. "As a matter of fact, records in our history will show that since the martial law years, students from UP were the ones who went underground and fought the government. In fact many of them went to China and never came back."

Correction

IN THE AUG. 24 ISSUE, Conrad Banal III's column on Page B2 of the Business section—"The parting is over"—misstated that former Rep. Salvador Escudero III, who helped establish the Foundation for the Upgrading of Education (FUSE) 12 years ago, was not rating high in the latest survey for "senatoriables." The columnist was actually referring to Salvador Escudero III's son, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 31, 2006
21st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 1:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 24:42-51

Jesus said to his disciples, "Stay awake, then, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Just think about this: if the owner of the house knew that the thief would come by night around a certain hour, he would stay awake to prevent his house to be broken into. So be alert, for the Son of Man will come at the hour you least expect.

Imagine a capable servant whom his master has put in charge of his household to give them food at the proper time. Fortunate indeed is that servant whom his master will find at work when he comes. Truly, I say to you, his lord will entrust that one with everything he has.

Not so with the bad servant who thinks: My master is delayed. And he begins ill-treating his fellow servants while eating and drinking with drunkards. But his master will come on the day he does not know and at the hour he least expects. He will dismiss that servant and deal with him as with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Commentary

Paul rejoices that the witness he bore to the Corinthians has been rewarded richly in their speech, knowledge and confirmation of belief. He prays for continued growth and strength and blamelessness, more grace and peace among them so that they will be holy. Could this be a description of us?

Jesus is warning his own to 'stay awake' because we can't know when the day of the Son of Man will come, when judgment will come upon the earth. We are to be like servants of the master who is away, who are faithful; not like those who take over, take the master's house for their own, beat one another and get caught. We will be judged and punished if we act like those he has been criticizing and calling to task. If the Son of Man came today what would we be doing?

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SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS

AUGUST 31, 2006, THURSDAY

10.00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
Function Room A
Successful Job Hunting Tips
by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Sparking the Filipinos' Imagination: Nation-Building Through Library Excellence, A Culture of Reading, and Inspiring Filipino Stories
Speaker: Fr. Teodolo P. Gonzales, SJ
by University of the Philippines Library and Information Science Alumni Association

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Corporate Manners with Fashion Show
by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Learn and Have Fun: An Interactive/Hands-On Experience by Verve Multimedia, Inc.

1.00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
C & E Publishing/ Thomson Gale Launching of Online Products

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Seminar on The Role of Blogging in the Librarianship: Pros and Cons
Speaker: Ms. Zarah Grace Gagatiga
by Association of Special Libraries of the Phils.

2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Henerasyon Fdn., Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture
by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Makati Skyline
National Book Awards (By Invitation)
by Manila Critics Circle

4:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Bare Hands Reflexology
by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Function Room A
Caregiver/Nursing Primer Course
by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

SEPTEMBER 1, 2006, FRIDAY

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Forum on the Interconnectivity of Reading and Civic Involvement. Book Talk: Twelve Little Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country by Atty. Alexander L. Lacson by Phil. Librarians Association, Inc. and Phil. Booksellers Association, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Forum on Book Writing, Publishing and Selling by Philippine Group of Law Librarians

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Teaching for Change: Seminar on Transformative Education. Speaker: Mr. Onofre Pagsanghan by C & E Publishing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Lecture-Forum on Reinventing Information Literacy Speakers: Ms. Zarah Grace Gagatiga and Mr. Rene C. Romero by Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science and Information Science

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Story Telling by Edcrisch International, Inc.

3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room A
Health, Beauty and Wellness by Medical & Health Librarians Association of the Philippines

3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture
by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

5:30 P.M - 7:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching by TESDA/Anvil Publishing, Inc.

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Makati Skyline
2006 Grand Book Launch and 49th Anniversary Celebration (By Invitation) by OMF Literature, Inc.

6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Power Dressing with Fashion Show
by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

SEPTEMBER 2, 2006, SATURDAY

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Launch of OMF Literature's Golden Year Writing Competition (By Invitation) by OMF Literature, Inc.

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

12:00 NN - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room A
27th National Quiz Bee - Manila and Pasay City Division Championship by Quiz Bee Foundation

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Hiyas Children's Books: Story Telling and Author Signing by OMF Literature, Inc.

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Robotics Demonstration by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture
by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Activity Area
More than a Story featuring Ms. Melody Remorca by Bookwagon

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Story Telling by Vibal Publishing House, Inc.

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching by St Pauls

SEPTEMBER 3, 2006, SUNDAY

10.00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
Function Room A
Successful Job Hunting Tips
by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Corporate Manners with Fashion Show
by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Book Launching, Film Showing and Presentation of Supreme Sign by Eternal Publication

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Pistang Panitik
By Anvil Publishing, Inc. & Unyon Ng Mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas/Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo; University of the Philippines Likhaan: UP Institute of Creative Writing: UP Quill, UP UGAT: UP Writers Club. Ateneo de Manila University Press: Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices (AILAP); De La Salle University Bienvenido Santos Creative Writing Center; University of Sto. Tomas Publishing House; Thomasian Writers Guild; UST Center for Creative Writing and Research

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Modeling for Beginners
by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

3:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Bare Hands Reflexology
by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture
by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Mass

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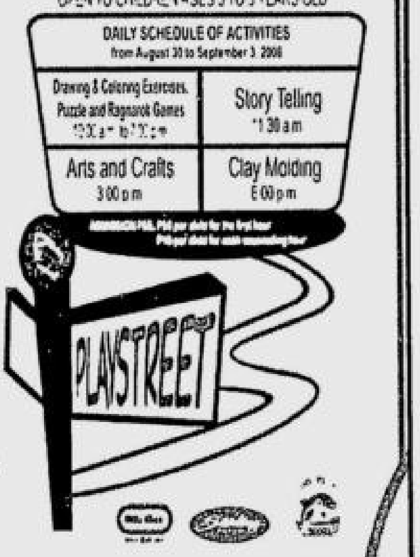
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Palparan replacement to try new tack vs Reds

By Dona Pazzibugan

A LOW-KEY ARMY GENERAL credited with Bohol's turnaround from a hotbed of communism to a tourist destination will replace the controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who retires on Sept. 11.

Brig. Gen. Juanito Gomez, 54, will replace Palparan as commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon, where militants accuse Palparan of allegedly leaving a trail of extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses.

In recent weeks, thousands of panicked residents in Nueva Ecija and Bulacan scrambled to get a community tax certificate, or *cedula*, after soldiers under Palparan's command required that they produce one to prove that they are bona fide residents of their communities.

Gomez, who has barely warmed his seat as the National Capital Region Command commander, was handpicked by top Defense officials to replace Palparan because of his success in Bohol as commander of the 302nd Infantry Brigade.

"This is a fresh approach," said Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.

Without referring to Palparan, Cruz said Gomez's proven approach in winning the support of the Boholanos should be a model for the military's counterinsurgency campaign.

Total approach

"General Gomez and our soldiers in Bohol became like tourism promoters. That is the image that we want to show the public. Bohol's success story should be the approach. That is the total government approach," Cruz said.

He said that during the years that Gomez was military commander there, Bohol's tourist trade boomed from a mere 150,000 visitors a year to one million tourists annually largely because the insurgency problem there was put under control.

In an interview yesterday, Gomez said he would continue Palparan's *cedula* campaign but perhaps not as aggressively.

"I'm a broad-minded person and in fact I'm trying to reach out to people in such a way that they will understand us, that we can understand each other so we can avoid fighting. We have to expand the peace process," he said.

"Although we prepare for battle, we also wish there will be no need for fighting," he added.

Cruz sidestepped suggestions that Palparan's heavy-fisted approach may have alienated people from the military and the government.

Success story

"The good thing is, we'll put Johnny Gomez in the 7th Infantry Division. He has a success story in Bohol," Cruz said.

In 2002, Gomez replaced Palparan as commander of the 204th Infantry Brigade based in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, where Palparan was referred to by militants as a "butcher" and "executioner."

Palparan was promoted to division commander of the 8th Infantry in Samar while Gomez served as acting commander of the 204th Infantry Brigade from November 2002 to October 2003.

Gomez, who was a colonel at the time, assumed command of the 302nd Infantry Brigade based in Carmen, Bohol in October 2003.

In just two years, Gomez was able to convince New People's Army rebels in the area to rejoin mainstream society.

He reportedly did this through radio programs, distribution of reading materials and even face-to-face dialogue.

Gomez eventually led the groundbreaking ceremonies for a housing and livelihood center for rebel returnees right inside a military reservation.

Governor's praise

In 2005, Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado praised Gomez for his successful counterinsurgency campaign which he said led to the dissolution of two of four NPA fronts and the transfer of the headquarters of the Central Visayas regional party committee to Leyte province.

Gomez earned his star-rank while still serving in Bohol. He assumed control of the NCR Command last June 29.

The Army has claimed that Palparan's campaign has been successful and would even be replicated in other Central Luzon provinces.

But Cruz did not seem enthusiastic about Palparan's approach, saying he would ask for the Army's assessment "based on the facts."

"What is important here is that Johnny Gomez was very successful in Bohol. I believe that if he can replicate what he did in Bohol, his approach will also be successful [in Central Luzon]," Cruz said.

Gomez said that asking for a *cedula* was standard operating procedure when the military conducts patrols.

"But we will not do house-to-house checks," he said.

Barangay league head presses use of vote counters

By Norman Bordadora

THE COUNTRY'S LEAGUE OF COMMUNITY leaders yesterday said it was looking into the possibility of filing another petition before the Supreme Court to ask the tribunal to reconsider its decision barring the use of 1,991 automated counting machines in the coming elections.

James Marty Lim, Marinduque board member and president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, said that their league is studying coming up with another petition containing new arguments different from the ones presented by lawyer Romulo Macalintal in his own petition asking the high court to allow the use of the ACM's in next year's elections.

"Every day that it takes the manual counting is a day that the lives of our community leaders are in peril," Lim said in a news conference yesterday.

Lim said the faster the results of the elections are transmitted from the communities to the next levels of canvassing, the better and safer for those involved in the counting of votes.

"Having been national president of the LnB for nine years, I've seen how my fellow public servants toil and imperil themselves during elections. It cannot be denied that a big chunk of election-related work is tasked upon barangay officials," Lim said.

"The longer it takes for the results to be generated, the greater is their exposure to danger," he added.

Lim said that aside from the poll-automation limiting the danger on those involved in the counting of votes, the LnB will also argue that the ACM's already belong to the Filipino people "having been delivered and, worse, paid for."

"Not only are the laws on obligations and contracts disregarded but also the trust of our people who rely on government's prudence in public spending," Lim said.

Lafayette given until Sept. 8 to test run

SORSOGON City—Lafayette Philippines Inc. has only until Sept. 8 to complete the final stage of the test run in Rapu-Rapu, Albay allowed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the head of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Bicol said.

The 15-day third and final stage started on Aug. 24 after the Pollution Adjudication Board gave the go-signal, said MGB Bicol director Reynulfo Juan amid protests by various cause-oriented groups and the local church here and in Albay.

Juan said this is the most critical part of the three-stage test run as it would be an actual operation of the entire system of the production to test the safety measures installed by the company.

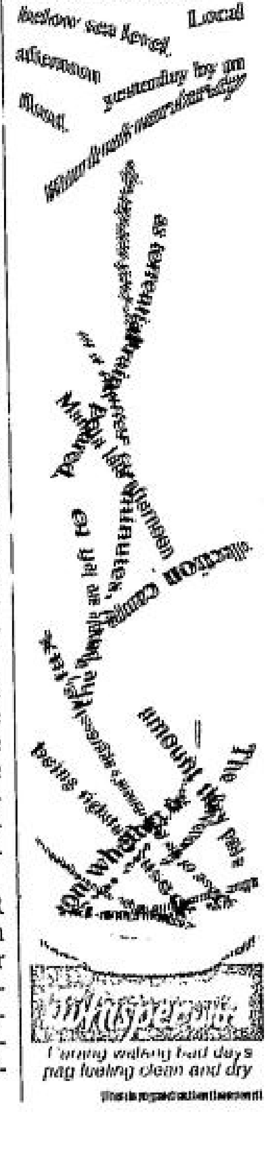
The MGB head said mineral ore would be used together with the various chemicals like sodium cyanide, calcium oxide, copper sulfate and others to produce gold and silver.

A number of DENR personnel have been assigned to monitor the test run and observe whether the safety measures work *Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Street floods strand thousands of Metro commuters yesterday

Commuters all over the Metro were stranded yesterday due to an hour-long flash flood which rampaged early in the day. Water levels were knee-deep in a matter of minutes, rising to about 2 feet as torrential rains poured.

Flood waters reached as high as one meter in some areas located below sea level. Local



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Ex-nursing association head meets whistle-blower

By TJ Burgonio

GEORGE CORDERO, THE RE-signed president of the Philippine Nurses Association, yesterday showed up at the Senate hearing on the leakage at the June nursing board exams and came face to face with a whistle-blower.

Cordero read a statement refuting all charges against him.

During a PowerPoint presentation, slides of sample questions and answers supposedly shown during the final coaching by the Cordero-owned Inress review center at SM Manila on June 8 and 9 were presented at the hearing.

Cordero, who also owns Philippine College of Health and Sciences, repeatedly maintained that those were not shown during the two-day final coaching.

"We have a different material presented during our enhancement program," he said, asserting that claims by a witness that the sample questions and answers were presented during the final coaching were "his own opinion."

At the hearing, Cordero faced Dennis Bautista who had testified that he was among more than 900 reviewers who were coached on test questions during Inress' two-day final coaching, some of which cropped up at the June 11-12 board exams.

The two had a brief exchange at the hearing, with Bautista refuting Cordero's claim that there was only one instructor during the final coaching. "There were three alternating lecturers," Bautista tersely told the committee.

Bautista also claimed that he and Cordero knew each other.

After attending the House inquiry in the morning, Professional Regulation Commission officials skipped the Senate hearing for the third time.

Calling their third snub "abominable," Sen. Richard Gordon lambasted PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero and Commissioners Renato Valdecantos and Avelina de la Rea, and recommended that they be cited for contempt.

"I really feel these people need and require to be held in contempt, especially this person who needs to be extracted from the PRC like a bad tooth because Mr. President this person obviously flouts the law," he added, referring to Rosero, President Macapagal-Arroyo's dentist.

After meeting in a caucus Tuesday night, senators agreed to merely ask the no-shows, including the PRC officials, to explain why they should not be cited for contempt, with the option to cite them in contempt and order them arrested if they fail to justify their non-appearance.

PRC: No retake of exams; adjusted grades add 499 to list of passers

From page A1

bonus is aimed at providing those who might be hurt by the downgrading of Test V (psychiatric nursing) with a "cushion."

To pass the nursing board exams, examinees should correctly answer at least 75 percent of 500 test questions equally distributed among five subject matters.

Test V was one of the two tests whose questions were leaked by two review centers to their students days before the nursing board exams were administered on June 11-12. The other was Test III (medical-surgical nursing).

The leakage led the Court of Appeals to order the PRC to put on hold the oath-taking of those who passed the tainted exams. Hundreds were able to take their oath before the CA issued the restraining order to the PRC. But a group of nurses and students wants the court to nullify the oath-taking.

Because of the controversy, a number of hospitals are reluctant to hire the June passers.

Violation

The new PRC formula did not mollify those calling for a retake of the nursing board exams to restore public confidence in new nursing graduates.

Dante Ang, who heads an inter-agency task force looking into the leakage, said the recomputation violated Republic Act No. 9173, or the Nursing Act of 2002.

He said even Test III was recomputed.

"The law says that your passing average should be 75 percent, provided you don't get a grade below 60 percent in any subject. When the Board of Nursing recomputed Test III corresponding to the questions from one percent to 1.25 percent, the effect of that would be to get the 60 percent minimum passing average for Test III," Ang said at the hearing.

Thus, examinees only have to answer 48 correct questions.

"By revising, or by recomputing Test III, and by assigning 1.25 percent to every questions left, in effect, you're passing average was reduced from 60 to 48 questions. This is not acceptable if you follow the original intention and the spirit of the law ... and therefore putting in doubt the competence of the examinees," he said.

Here's how the PRC formula works:

The PRC nullifies 90 of the 100 questions under Test V and incorporates the scores of examinees in the remaining 10 questions into the final score, which is computed by combining the average of Tests I-IV and Tests I-V.

The result: The number of passers went up from 17,322 to 17,821, or from 41.24 to 42.42 percent passing rate. A total of 42,006 nursing graduates took the exams on June 11 to 12 in 11 test centers across the country.

CORDERO

Bar exams precedent

PRC Commissioner Avelina de la Rea explained to the joint committee that reducing the weight of Test V "actually resulted in 78 percent of questions being graded."

De la Rea said the PRC move was not without precedent.

In 2002, she said the Supreme Court invalidated one subject, commercial law, in the bar exams because of a leakage, and distributed the weight to the other seven subjects.

"So, one of the eight subjects was removed. What we did is not an unusual response from testing institutions that cannot find all the actual beneficiaries of the leakage. We can find some of the beneficiaries but not all," De la Rea said.

Some of the examinees might have been "hurt" because Test V was downgraded, but it "would only be true for those who have only high grades in Test V," she said.

De la Rea said those who passed Tests I-IV, even with a low grade, would not really be disadvantaged.

Advantage of leakage removed

She said the PRC did the recomputation "blindly" because the names in the examination papers had not been determined until after all the subjects had been corrected and graded.

"We don't know who they are. But we know that people like the witness this morning (George Cordero, owner of a review center), (since) the advantage of the leakage was removed, did not pass," she said.

The chair of the civil service committee, Rep. Francis Nepomuceno, said the joint committee could not yet comment on the PRC decision because it was still on its preliminary hearing.

Nepomuceno said the Court of Appeals could eventually settle the controversy. "We want to finish this investigation as soon as possible but there's a pending injunction from the court," he said.

Malacañang favors the retake of the nursing board exams but only for those passers found to have benefited from the leakage.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said it was the position of President Macapagal-Arroyo that those who passed should not retake (the exams), except those who took advantage of the leakage.

NBI probe

Ermita said the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) was set to submit to him today the results of its investigation, which included those to be criminally charged and the identification of the testing places where the leakage happened.

Asked who will make the final decision to give a retake of the exams, the executive secretary said the Palace "will give it to the PRC."

Responding to the challenge of Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla for the PRC board to resign en masse, Rosero said: "We will wait until the investigation is finished. Until found guilty and unqualified, we won't resign."

Remulla said resignation was the best option to give way to an "impartial and fair investigation" by the NBI and Congress whose both chambers are separately conducting a probe.

"No one is invincible. This will haunt them forever," he said.

Whistle-blowers

In Baguio City, the examinees, who exposed the cheating, said many of them were on the brink of giving up the fight after the PRC rejected the proposal for the examinees to retake the exams.

On Aug. 24, the whistle-blowers and the nursing school deans sympathetic to their cause issued a manifesto saying they were supporting a reexamination.

"Painful as it may be, retaking the spoiled portions [of the examinations, Tests III and V] is the less unjust course to adopt. This gives the examinees the opportunity to shake off the stigma caused by the leakage, assures them that employers will not turn them away because of the conviction that they are incompetent, and regains the integrity of the nursing profession," the manifesto read.

Frustrated

But Lilian Yangot, one of the complainants, said they were frustrated about the way things were going.

Yangot was the complainant who first obtained a copy of the 18-page test leakage that was circulated by clients of a review center during the examinations in Baguio.

She said the group decided to stay away from the retake debate because they all felt that taking another examination would be tiresome.

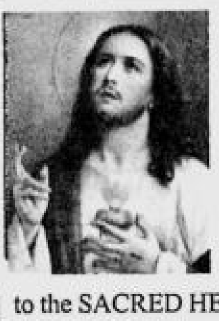
"*Mahirap mag-retake* (It's hard to take a new examination). Had they told us we could retake the test earlier, we would have bitten the bullet," she said.

"But if they ask us to do so today, we would beg off for a December test instead so we can prepare all over again. Now that PRC is again saying no to a retake, we will just go with the flow unless the government shows that it means to convict the people who leaked the test."

The complainants had asked the PRC to hold the test results and to suspend members of the Board of Nursing. The PRC did not heed their request.

"We want to move on, but by releasing the test results, the PRC managed to shift the debate from the culprits who should be convicted to a debate between people who passed and failed," said Yangot.

"This is unfair because we are all victims," she added. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



IMPORTANT

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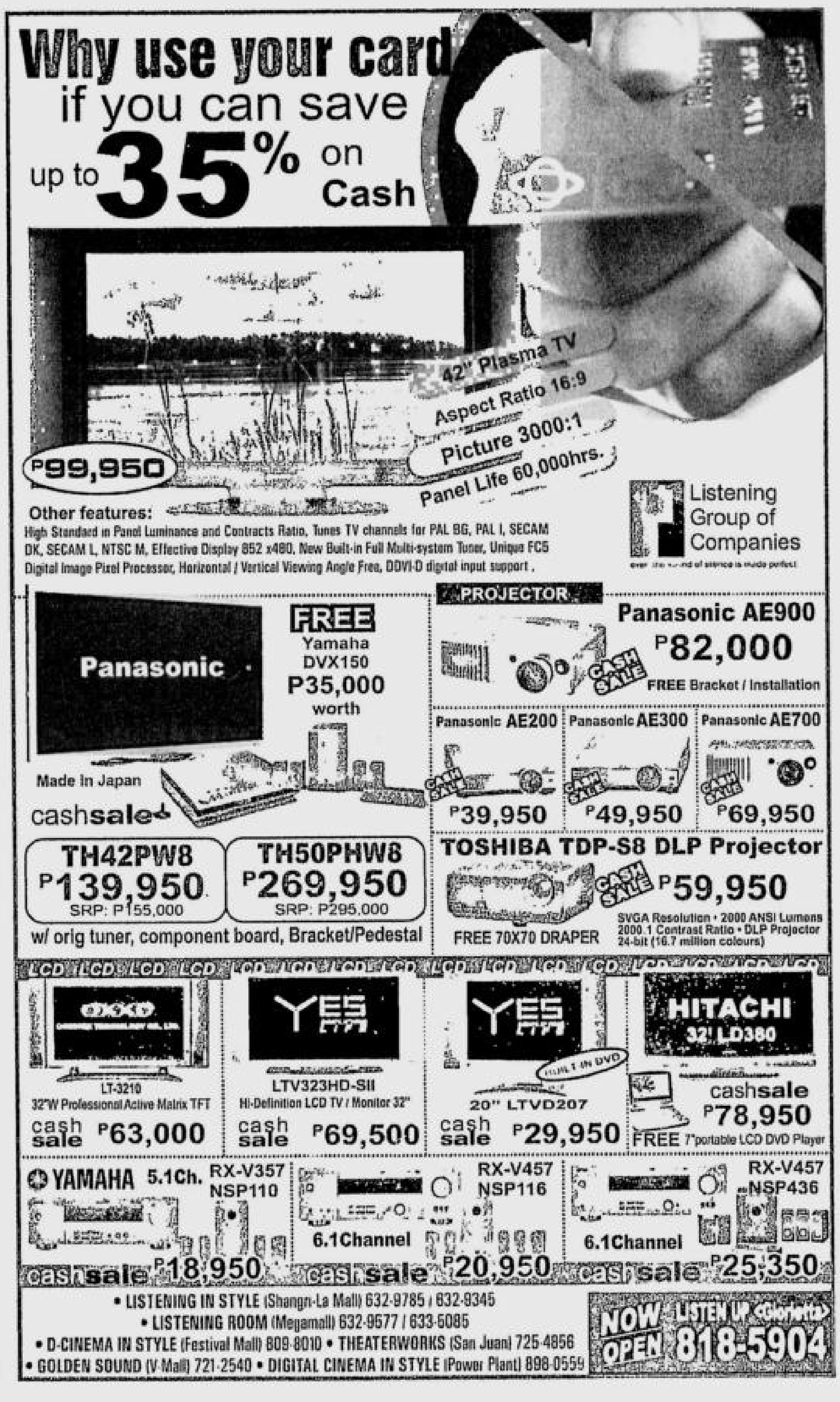

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Palace to help Joc-Joc

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

MALACANANG SEES nothing wrong in extending humanitarian assistance to former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante who has been in detention in the US for unspecified visa violations.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said it was only "customary" for Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo to instruct the Philippine consular general to extend assistance to Bolante, the latter being a citizen of the Philippines.

Bolante's lawyers and family members had informed the Philippine embassy in Washington that he was suffering from certain medical conditions that require urgent and specialized medical attention that might not be available in his detention facility at the Kenosha County Detention Center in Wisconsin.

Ermita, however, said he had no personal knowledge of Bolante's ailment.

The DFA confirmed yesterday that Bolante sought assistance on humanitarian grounds.

"We are mandated by law to help any Filipino who seeks the Philippine government's help," DFA spokesman Gilberto Asuque told a dzMM interview.

Palace to follow only RP court order on Piatco

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG WILL follow the orders of a Philippine court and not that of an arbitration court in Singapore in the legal battle for ownership of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's mothballed Terminal 3, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita expressed annoyance at the threat from the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., the Filipino-German consortium that built the terminal, to take over the facility by force today.

"How can they bully the government? It's like somebody trying to kick an elephant. We dare them to that," he said.

'Just because an international court ordered the Naia 3 handed to Piatco, it doesn't mean it will be executory," said Ermita who stressed that Malacañang would go by what the local courts say.

Because of Piatco's bullying tactics, Ermita said the government was more convinced than ever that it should run Naia 3 on its own and reject Piatco's offer last year to jointly manage the terminal.

Press Secretary Ignacio R. Bunye said in a statement the "interest of the Filipino people and the sovereign prerogatives of the Philippine government under the law" would prevail.

"Everyone knows that this is within the jurisdiction of the Philippine courts," he said.

In late August, the Singapore-based International Chamber of Commerce Arbitration Tribunal ordered the government to return the Naia 3 to Piatco for failing to pay the consortium.

Piatco sought arbitration from the ICC after the Supreme Court in 2002 upheld the government's decision to void Piatco's Naia 3 contract for being onerous and disadvantageous.

In December 2004, the government filed a case for expropriation with the Pasay court so it could take over the terminal. A month later, the court ordered the government to pay Piatco P3.3 billion as initial payment so it could issue a writ of possession to Naia 3.

The payment of the P3.3 billion has however been stymied by various court motions to intervene in the expropriation case and stop the payment to Piatco on the ground that it obtained its contract through fraud and corruption.

Last week, just as the government was ready to pay Piatco the P3.3 billion, the Court of Appeals, acting on a petition of Rep. Salacnib Baterina, issued an order against payment.

Airport chief Alfonso Cusi yesterday appealed to Piatco to "exercise prudence" before acting on its threat to take over the terminal at 8 a.m. today.

Cusi also said that government lawyers had already taken the necessary legal steps to lift the appellate court's TRO. *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

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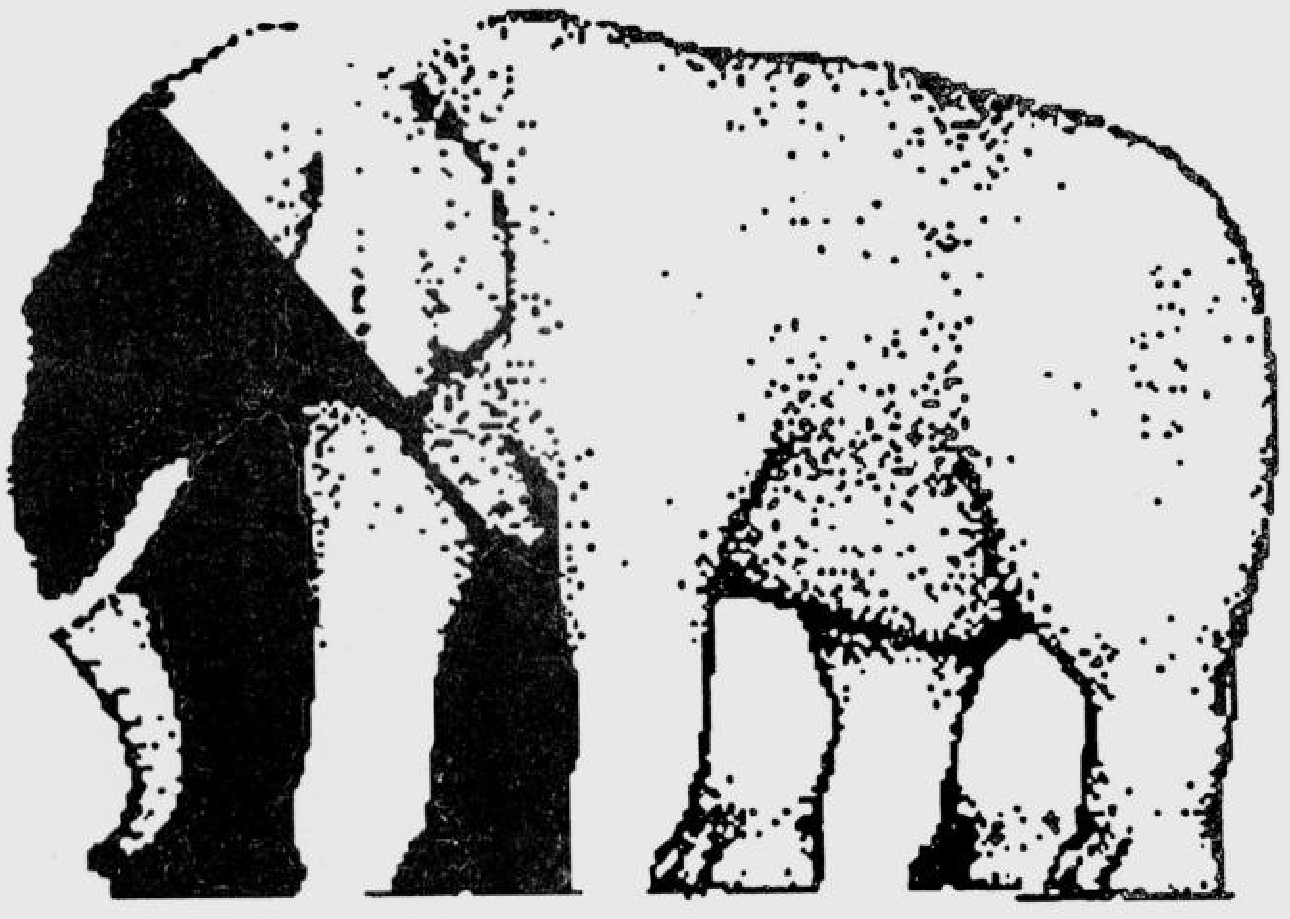

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Captain erred, says shipping firm head

From page A1

tique and noticed that the vessel was pitching forward, while other crew members said it appeared to be listing on its right side.

The tanker later sought shelter at the Iloilo anchorage off Guimaras to check on the vessel's condition. The crew learned that several compartments were filled with water and an air vent was broken. After removing the water and plugging the vent, the tanker resumed its trip to Zamboanga:

Aguro said the weather was starting to become rough when it left. When the tanker had passed Guimaras Island on the afternoon of Aug. 11, it began listing on its right side. The tanker tried to head back to Guimaras or Bacolod to seek shelter, but went belly up and sank.

Abinoja earlier questioned Aguro's decision to go to Zamboanga. He said the other day that the captain could have waited another day for the weather to clear and to determine what caused the water to come into the vessel.

While believing that the captain made an erroneous call, Cancio testified to Aguro's competence as master of Solar I and defended Sunshine Maritime's decision to hire him despite having no specialized training in oil tanker operations.

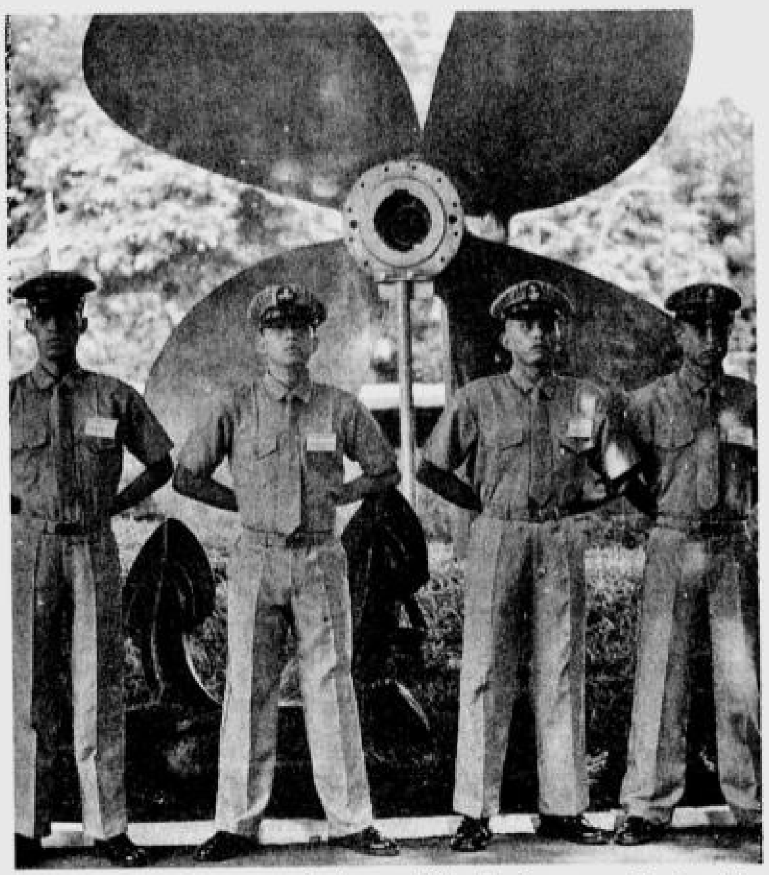
Cancio said the corporation was looking for a master mariner to steer Solar I, which had previously been commanded by a second mate, and Aguro was one. He also said he believed Aguro was qualified to handle the oil tanker because he was licensed to handle chemical tankers.

"When we looked at his license, it said there chemical tanker. We assumed that a chemical tanker is more dangerous cargo than an oil tanker, that's why we hired him, your honor," the Sunshine Maritime president said, adding that the captain also had experience aboard other oil vessels.

Sunshine Maritime operations manager Luis Noel also testified that Aguro was hired because he was a master mariner.

But SBMI member Benjamin Mata pointed out that under the rules of the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), people whom the corporation would hire must be certified for the kind of vessel they would operate.

Cancio also said that in the past four years, Aguro's performance had been "satisfactory" and at times "very good," hence the decision to maintain him as Solar I master.



CADETS at the Magsaysay Institute of Shipping line up on the street in front of a real ship propeller on Wednesday while awaiting the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo for the inauguration of the MIS training facility in Barangay San Agustin, Dasmariñas, Cavite. LYN RILLON

But he also said the corporation had to hire an auxiliary captain to take over the docking of the Solar I at the Petron terminal in Bataan because Aguro had violated several times Petron's requirement that the tanker be brought in with a tugboat.

The SBMI also found that Aguro had expired certificates in general tanker familiarization and advance training on chemical tanker operations. Four other crew members had expired general tanker familiarization certificate.

Cancio said he would look into the certifications of Sunshine Maritime's other employees.

As for the tanker's expired interim document of compliance, which shows compliance with the code for the safe operation of ships and pollution prevention, he said the corporation had applied for a new one. All other documents of the tanker were in order, the SBMI found.

Cancio also said the Marina had grounded Sunshine Maritime's other vessels after Solar I sank.

For his part, engineer Anatalio Barola, the owner's technical representative during the drydocking of Solar I from Jan. 7 to Feb. 24, 2006, said he believed the tanker had been inspected thoroughly.

Barola even said he did not think the continued battering of waves and wind would cause structural damage to the tanker, in response to Abinoja's question.

Abinoja then said bigger vessels had been destroyed by bad weather and rough seas and repeated his question about such conditions affecting the structural integrity of the tanker.

"No sir, not possible, sir," he said.

He also declined to give his opinion on why the tanker sank.

Barola also said all of the tanks, steel plates, piping and welding works in Solar I had been inspected and these were in good condition.

He said there had been rust observed in the ballast tanks, but added that the surveyor said it was "okay."

Barola also said that he was not a regular employee of Sunshine Maritime and was only hired to oversee the drydocking of the tanker. He said he only had a verbal contract with the corporation.

In Malacañang, President Arroyo has ordered the Department of Transportation and Communications to conduct a thorough review of the seaworthiness and aptitude of the ships and their crew in carrying hazardous chemicals to prevent a repeat of the Guimaras oil spill. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

'With 2 to 3 typhoons, this will normalize'

From page A1

has been described as a ticking ecological time bomb, was not that bad after all.

He said it was the UP Visayas that estimated that more than half of the bunker fuel oil carried by Solar I was already out in the sea.

Situation not as bad

The UP Visayas and the Department of Science and Technology have been designated as the databank of all information on the Guimaras oil spill.

"Around 1.3 million liters are out. This has a big implication because you know much is left under water that needs to be sucked out," Yumul said at a press conference, adding that the situation in Guimaras was not as bad as has been painted in initial reports.

PCG information officer Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme cited yesterday a set of numbers different from the UP Visayas'.

He said that at least half a million liters of oil would leak into the waters of Guimaras in the next 19 days if the sunken vessel was not salvaged.

Coyme told the Fernandina media forum in Greenhills, San Juan, that between 500,000 and 700,000 liters of oil would leak in the next 19 days.

"Our computation is based on testimonies of the survivors as well as our visual survey. We have been monitoring the leak every day," he said.

Just estimates

Yumul said the first numbers—220 km of coastline, 454 ha of mangroves, 1,100 ha of marine reserve—were just estimates done at the "reconnaissance level" or at the initial stage of a disaster.

The Provincial Disaster Management Team of Negros has confirmed a radar satellite photo taken on Aug. 27 that showed an oil sheen 18 km to 20 km from the coast of Ilog, Negros Occidental, with a larger oil slick trailing further behind.

The slick threatens Negros Occidental's southern coastal communities, which include the towns of Cauayan, Ilog, Kabankalan, Himamaylan, Binalbagan and Hinigaran, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines.

The DOST, however, insisted that the oil spill had not yet reached or affected Negros Occidental, and that the oil sheen seen in the WWF photo could have been the trail of another ship that released oil as it traversed the Guimaras Strait.

"Negros has not been affected ... This whole thing has been blown out of proportion," Yumul said.

Wrong impression

Only 99.6 km of coastline in the southwestern part of Guimaras have been affected, but this could be more as the oil slick travels and spreads out, according to the science undersecretary.

"People have this wrong impression that the whole Guimaras is affected, but if you look at the hazard maps and risk maps, you will see that the risk (of more ecological damage) is actually very minimal. The oil slick has affected only the southwestern part of the province," he said.

He said the ordinary maps were merely "layman's drawings" of the incident and that these were "wrong" because they gave the picture that the entire eastern part of Guimaras was affected.

He said experts from the UP Visayas had computed the volume of oil leaked based on the number of mangroves affected in the Taclong reserve, and the height and thickness of the slick.

Based on computations, around 45,000 liters of oil have affected the reserve.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has issued a transport permit to Petron to allow the transfer of the oil sludge gathered from Guimaras' shores to Iligan City, where a cement plant would process the sludge and turn it to cement.

"It's a myth to say the damaged environment can never be recovered," Yumul said.

The UP Visayas has been given at least P100 million of the President's calamity fund for a 10-year environmental and economic rehabilitation plan.

"Rehabilitation efforts will definitely be over in six months," Yumul said.

Toxic fumes

Exposure to toxic fumes from the oil slick may have affected the 30 students of the La Paz Elementary School in Nueva Valencia town in Guimaras who were sent home yesterday morning after they complained of headache, stomachache and vomiting.

Earlier, the Department of Health said that these symptoms indicated exposure to oil toxic fumes.

The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council had reported 628 cases of respiratory diseases, dermatitis, conjunctivitis, diarrhea and vomiting, asthma, dizziness, abdominal pain, infected wound, vertigo and headache as of Monday.

Health officials earlier issued an advisory to residents to refrain from eating or selling fish, shellfish and other sea foods within the spill area.

Medical teams will be sent to the affected villages as many children are showing signs of illnesses related to the spill.

The local government is also expected to evacuate more residents from villages affected by the massive oil spill in Guimaras as toxic fumes continue to take its toll on the health of residents.

Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga said his town was waiting for results of tests being conducted by the Department of Health to determine the toxicity of the air and water in villages affected by the spill.

He said he expected more villages to be evacuated because the 11 coastal villages affected by the spill have generally the same level of exposure to the bunker fuel.

A total of 136 families or 400 residents in the villages of La Paz and Cabalagnan in Nueva Valencia town were evacuated from their houses near the shoreline on Tuesday because of a high level of pollution. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

Slick-free resorts cash in on oil spill tourism

From page A1

reeling from the massive oil slick from MT Solar I, which sank on Aug. 11 in Guimaras Strait.

Working tourists

At slick-free Alubihod Beach here, four resorts have their hands full catering to the needs of a new breed of visitors—the "working tourists."

Wearing "oil spill getups," they go to oil-affected coastal barangays and islets almost daily carrying any of the following: spades, television and digital cameras, radio handsets and notebooks.

Since Aug. 16, Raymen Beach Resort's 28 air-conditioned rooms and 14 ordinary rooms have been booked by some 60 Petron Corp. officials and employees, who are overseeing cleanup operations, according to resort manager Salvacion Gentizon.

Raymen still found space to accommodate a crew of 16 people from two television networks and the occasional reporter from international wire agencies and national broadsheets.

The resort charges P1,200 to P1,600 daily for air-conditioned rooms and P500 to P800 for ordinary rooms.

With Raymen as the resort of choice, other working tourists are accommodated by nearby beach resorts Freelance, Rico and Villa Igang.

Villa Igang is owned by the John B. Lacson Colleges Foundation that uses the resort as training ground for its maritime students.

All these resorts face Iloilo Strait and are accessible to the most heavily affected coastal barangays of Lapaz and Tando, some 11 to 15 km away.

Canceled bookings

Still, Gentizon laments the loss of the regular tourists, all of whom canceled their bookings after hearing about the oil spill.

"No amount of explaining to them that we are far from the oil spill and that our operations are normal could dissuade our guests from canceling their bookings," sighed the 54-year-old manager.

Edwin Trompeta, tourism regional director, said that of the 24 resorts in Guimaras, only seven were affected by the oil spill, including Nagarao and Costa Aguada on Inampulugan Island where President Macapagal-Arroyo stayed overnight on Aug. 28 during her second visit to the island after the oil spill.

Foregone revenue

The tourism industry lost over P3.57 million in foregone revenue from Aug. 11 to 27 as 17 tourism establishments in the province reported canceled bookings, according to Trompeta.

High-end resort Costa Aguada, west of Pulupandan, Negros Occidental, and southeast of Iloilo City, benefited much from the President's Aug. 28 visit despite being given only a day's notice.

The 68-room resort, owned by the family of Tony Oppen, was filled with guests when Ms Arroyo and her coterie arrived.

Boat ride to Iloilo

Costa Aguada charges P4,600 daily for a single room and P17,405 for a room for four during the off-peak season of June 1 to Sept. 15.

Because Costa Aguada was fully booked during the President's visit, some guests chose to endure the almost two-hour boat ride back to Iloilo City or mainland Guimaras.

Some journalists proceeded to neighboring Nagarao Island Resort frequented by European tourists who at this time were nowhere to be seen.

"We will convert this tragedy into an opportunity. The oil spill gives us free promotions. The name recall for Guimaras is very high. That should be converted into a positive thing for us," said Ruben Corpuz, Guimaras provincial economic development officer.

Aside from beach and island resorts, Guimaras offers agri-tourism, mountain biking and spelunking.

Battle of Ninoy movies looms; 14 convicts to present 'truth'

From page A1

soon hit the theaters, if plans push through.

Carlo J. Caparas and his producer-wife, Donna Villa, discussed the project with the convicts on Monday during a meeting at the NBP Social Hall, said Olaguer.

Olaguer yesterday told the INQUIRER that the convicts did not expect the planned movie to help set them free, but said their fellow Filipinos might instead be freed from not knowing their side of the story which, they maintain, is the truth.

Curiously, another movie about Ninoy Aquino is currently in pre-production and set to start principal photography in January, with Cesar Montano as producer and lead star and award-winning director Marilou Diaz-Abaya at the helm.

The two movies may be taking different points of view. Since Montano's movie reportedly has the blessings of the martyred senator's wife, former President Cory Aquino, it is less likely to be sympathetic with the convicts.

Nothing new

Asked yesterday to confirm this in a phone interview, the producer-actor said he and Mrs. Aquino still had to thresh out details regarding the execution of "the tarmac scene"—when Ninoy is gunned down at the [illegible]anila International Airport.

It was arguably the m[illegible]st se[illegible]tive sequence in his [illegible] Montano, although it would only be a small part of the whole. "Our movie is about Benigno Aquino, the man—husband, father, friend..."

Proposals to film the soldiers' story are not exactly new, Olaguer noted.

He said the idea was hatched in the early '90s and has been brought up several times in meetings among himself, Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Rueda-Acosta and Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption chair Dante Jimenez. They are seeking presidential pardon for the 14 convicts.

After the Supreme Court denied with finality in May 2005 the ex-soldiers' petition to reopen the ca[illegible] the discussions became [illegible], Olaguer said. They [illegible] to meet with Cap[illegible]ily on Monday, he added.

The soldiers have languished in jail for 23 years now, all the while maintaining their innocence in the assassination of Aquino and his alleged assassin, Rolando Galman.

There were 16 of them convicted, mostly members of the Aviation Security Command: Capt. Romeo Bautista, 2nd Lt. Jesus Castro, Sergeants Claro Lat, Arnulfo de Mesa, Filomeno Miranda, Rolando de Guzman, Ernesto Mateo, Rodolfo Desolong, Ruben Aquino and Arnulfo Artates, Constables Rogelio Moreno and Mario Lazaga, Airmen Cordova Estelo and Felizardo Taran, former M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez and Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio.

Estelo was killed in a stabbing spree inside the maximum security compound in December 2005. The 16th accused, Custodio never made it to Bilibid; he succumbed to cancer in 1991 while detained at the Villamor Air Base.

All 16 had escorted Aquino down a China Airlines plane on his return from exile in the United States.

Recently, SPO4 Ruben Cantimbuhan, driver of the van, and Martinez surfaced and pointed to Galman as the real gunman. Martinez also confessed that he was part of the assassination plot, stressing that his fellow soldiers were not guilty.

Olaguer yesterday said Villa also suggested making the convicts' story into a television series. "It would be more extensive than a documentary or a full-length film," he said, quoting Caparas' wife.

"Whatever the final decision, the filmmakers said the movie would also tackle the lives of the ex-soldiers behind bars, aside from the truths behind the killing of Ninoy," the chaplain said.

There will be another meeting next week, Olaguer added, this time with Rueda-Acosta.

Caught by surprise

The news of Caparas' project obviously caught Montano by surprise.

"I had no idea he was planning his own Ninoy movie," the actor said. "Well, that is his right, although as a fellow filmmaker, I personally wouldn't have done that, knowing a similar project was under way."

Montano stressed that, all in all, "I guess it's OK." But if the Caparas version hits the theaters earlier? "There's really very little I can do about that," said Montano. "But again, I'm sure the two movies will be very different."

France joins calls for GMA to stop political killings

FRANCE ON WEDNESDAY JOINED CALLS for President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to do more to stop a spate of political killings.

"It's important to decrease the level of violence," said French Embassy Charge d'Affaires Bernard Regnauld Fabre.

"I can speak as a diplomat living in Manila and I can see what the newspapers are reporting every day and there are clearly disappearances in the Philippines. Disappearances are not something acceptable in the democratic society," Fabre said on the sidelines of a United Nations Convention Against Disappearances.

"There are killings as well (and) journalists are one of (the victims). It is a very important thing to assure them of their ability to work," he added.

Leftist groups have accused the government of being behind a string of killings and disappearances, saying that at least 104 of their members have been killed since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001.

International press watchdog groups have criticized Ms Arroyo for failing to give adequate protection to journalists following the murder of at least four this year. Seven were also killed in 2005, making the Philippines the second most dangerous place for journalists after Iraq.

But Fabre said he was optimistic that the killings would be curbed after Ms Arroyo created a commission to look into political murders. *AFP*

FAMILIES of victims of forced disappearances light candles at Plaza Miranda in Manila on Wednesday. The group also joined the interfaith memorial service for victims of human rights violations under the Arroyo administration. At right, Marjorie Salvador, 5, holds a photo of one of the victims. ROMY HOMILLADA

Probers tag soldiers in Albay pastor's murder

From page A1

The team's conclusion was based on evidence the local police took from Cpl. Lordger Pastrana, who was found dead beside Sta. Rosa on the night of the killing.

Among them were Pastrana's identification card showing that he was a member of the 9th ID based in Pili, Camarines Sur, a .45 cal. pistol, a mission order, and a cellular phone allegedly taken from Sta. Rosa's house.

Pastrana was believed to be one of the gunmen. He was reportedly accidentally shot by his own men while they were trying to subdue a fleeing Sta. Rosa. Cortez said the corporal took a bullet in the right side of his body while the pastor died of six gunshot wounds.

"We call on (Melo) to hold dialogues with church people," the United Methodist Church said in a statement. "Representatives of the churches whose pastors and members have become victims of brutal killings, attempted killings, grave threats and harassment are willing to confer with (Melo) to provide him information on the 23 cases of clergy and lay members killed."

WHERE IS . . .
MISSING
WHERE IS . . .
WHERE ARE THEY?
WHERE

FILIPINO protesters hold placards as they take part in a rally at the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong on Wednesday to mark the International Day of the Disappeared. REUTERS

Widow blames military

Asked if she was open to an entirely different finding by the Melo Commission, Sta. Rosa's widow Sonia said she was convinced that her husband was killed by the military.

"From the very start, we know it was the military," she said in the press conference.

"This is the handiwork of the Army. They took him, bound him, then shot him six times!" said Sta. Rosa's teary-eyed brother Jonathan.

Leftist groups put the number of political killings at around 700, including combatants. The INQUIRER counts 247 such murders.

No sacred cows

Butuan Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos on Monday said the commission would first look into the disappearances of two University of the Philippines students—Sherlyn Cadapan, 29, and Karen Empeño, 23—who were allegedly abducted by the military.

Also yesterday, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines challenged the Melo Commission to make true its promise to spare no sacred cows and investigate even President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the extrajudicial killings.

Sharon Duremdes, the NCCP secretary general, said the commission should not "just dig out the truth but (also) to serve justice by ensuring that both the killers and the masterminds are made accountable."

"We do not want the Melo Commission to be like the other bodies created by the government in the past which were ineffective, to say the least," Duremdes said in a statement.

"We don't want the Melo Commission to be mellow," added Rev. Fr. Rex Reyes Jr. of the NCCP.

Rev. Dr. David Pascua urged the commission to "use your power to defend life in the countryside."

Give Melo a chance

In Cebu City, Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal urged the public to give Melo a chance to prove himself. He welcomed Melo's statement that there would be no sacred cows in his investigation and expressed hopes that the killings would be solved.

"We should give the commission a chance. They should be free and independent. *Dapat walang palakasan* (there should be no pulling of strings) otherwise there would be no end to it," Vidal yesterday told the INQUIRER.

Vidal has denounced the summary killings of activists and journalists as well as the vigilante slayings in Cebu, Davao and other provinces. He has joined the call of other religious and cause-oriented groups to investigate the murders.

The Cebu archbishop earlier declined to be part of the commission to preserve the independence of the Church. *With a report from Jolene R. Bulambot, Inquirer Visayas*

Police offer to protect businessmen targeted by NPA

From page A1

eral factions of the leftist movement. Groups opposed to the leadership of CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison, who is based in The Netherlands, are called "rejectionists," and those who recognize it, as "reaffirmists."

No ideology

"The NPAs, nowadays, are not living on ideology. Many have joined this organization for monetary and financial (considerations)," Calderon said.

He disclosed that intelligence units were working to get the alleged extortionists but none of them was known to have made significant progress.

Calderon urged businessmen not to give in to NPA demands.

"Definitely, we discourage them from giving. (Instead they should) give us the necessary information, like who are the collectors, when is the collection time, so we could conduct proper operations against these people," he said.

Assuming specific information is handed to the PNP, Calderon said police would be able to "neutralize these groups."

Urged to do more

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita also said leftist party-list representatives "must make more concrete measures to show how serious they are in putting an end to these gross human rights violations."

He said Rosales and other left of center party-list representatives should not only come up with a stronger voice condemning the NPA's tax collection but also make moves that these things do not happen again.

Ermita praised Rosales as a deserving member of Congress, one who "sees the NPA's actions for what they are—human rights violations."

He said the CPP and the National Democratic Front were hypocritical for claiming to be "propeople" when they had done nothing but "molest" the people with their progressive taxation.

"The NPA has become even more desperate in their extortion activities especially now that their foreign funding sources have dried up after being labeled as a terrorist group by the European Union, the United States, and Canada," said Ermita. He added that the blacklisting of the CPP-NPA was a "strategic victory" for the government.

Malacañang had previously urged businessmen to stop paying revolutionary taxes in order to further cripple the financial capability of the communist rebels as part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of an all-out war against the insurgents.

But businessmen continued to pay rather than risk having their assets torched or vandalized largely due to their skepticism on the government's ability to give them protection.

Blessing sought

Also yesterday, a spokesperson of the local communist guerrillas said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER in Lucena City that politicians were now beginning to make a beeline in a bid to gain NPA support in the May 2007 elections.

"They hiked mountainous trails and crossed several enemy detachments just to reach us. They brought with them the usual gifts for the boys like cigarettes, foods, etc. Sometimes, they sent these through our trusted couriers," said Ka Armine de Guia of the NPA Apolonio Mendoza Command.

He added: "But we exercised prudence before we accepted gifts, especially from opportunistic politicians." *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

India taxman shows way in fight against corruption

From page A1

Chan, government service; South Korea's Park Won-soon, public service, and Nepal's Sanduk Ruit, promoting peace and international understanding.

Grass-roots movement

Kejriwal said it was his experiences in the Indian Revenue Service that led him to think about ways to curb corruption. In 2000, he founded the Parivartan—meaning "change"—a grass-roots movement that aimed to "address extortionist type of corruption where a person has to pay a bribe to get his legitimate dues from government."

At that time, he said, people had to pay bribes to enjoy even basic services, such as light, water and telephone connections. He said his group started urging the people "not to pay bribes" and offered to facilitate their requests with the government agency.

When the Right to Information Act (RTI) was enacted, Kejriwal, through Parivartan, started invoking the law in following up applications for basic services.

Faster than bribes

"In ordinary circumstances, such an application would be thrown into a dustbin. But this law says that they have to reply within 30 days. If they don't, their salary will be deducted," Kejriwal said.

Noting how the law works, Parivartan changed its strategy from accepting public grievances to directly educating them on how to use it to solve their own problems, he said.

"RTI often works faster than bribes. It does not make economic sense to pay bribes anymore," Kejriwal said.

In another instance, the law was also used to conduct "social audit" of 68 public works projects. According to Kejriwal, it was exposed in a public hearing that the project proponents had misappropriated some seven million rupees.

Invoking the law, Parivartan gathered official records showing how shopkeepers and certain food department officials conspired to deprive the poor their share of rice and wheat rations from the government.

Kejriwal, however, said the RTI should not be taken as a "panacea to all ills." He said it should not be construed also as a fight against the government.

"RTI is an extremely powerful weapon in our hands. It casts an equally greater responsibility on the people to use this weapon with extreme care and responsibility," he said. "We should ask for accounts from the government and about its activities, not to find faults with them but as a process and as part of our duty to engage in our democracy."

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voted by readers
SUPER BRAND
Reader's Digest Philippines
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
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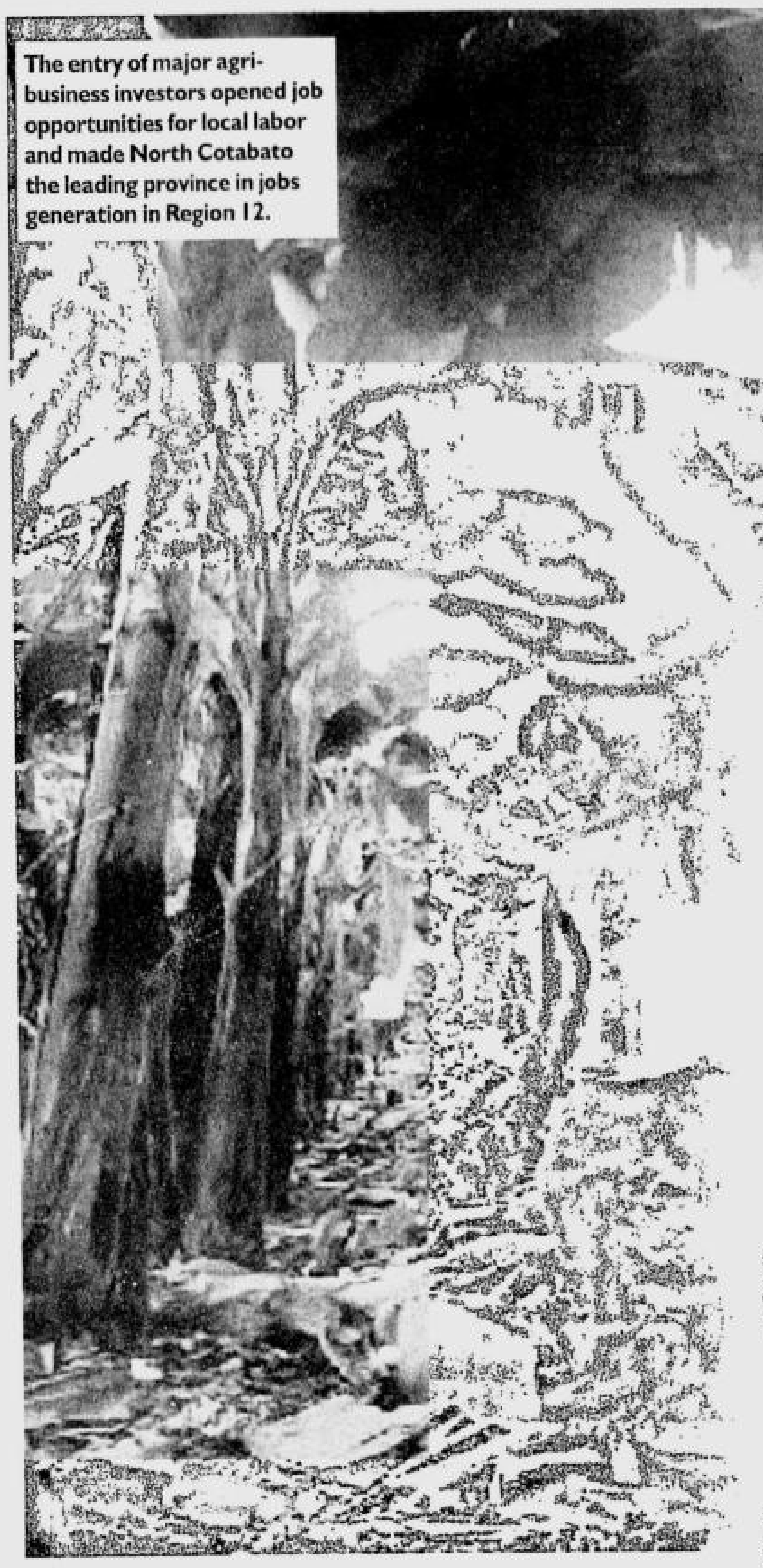
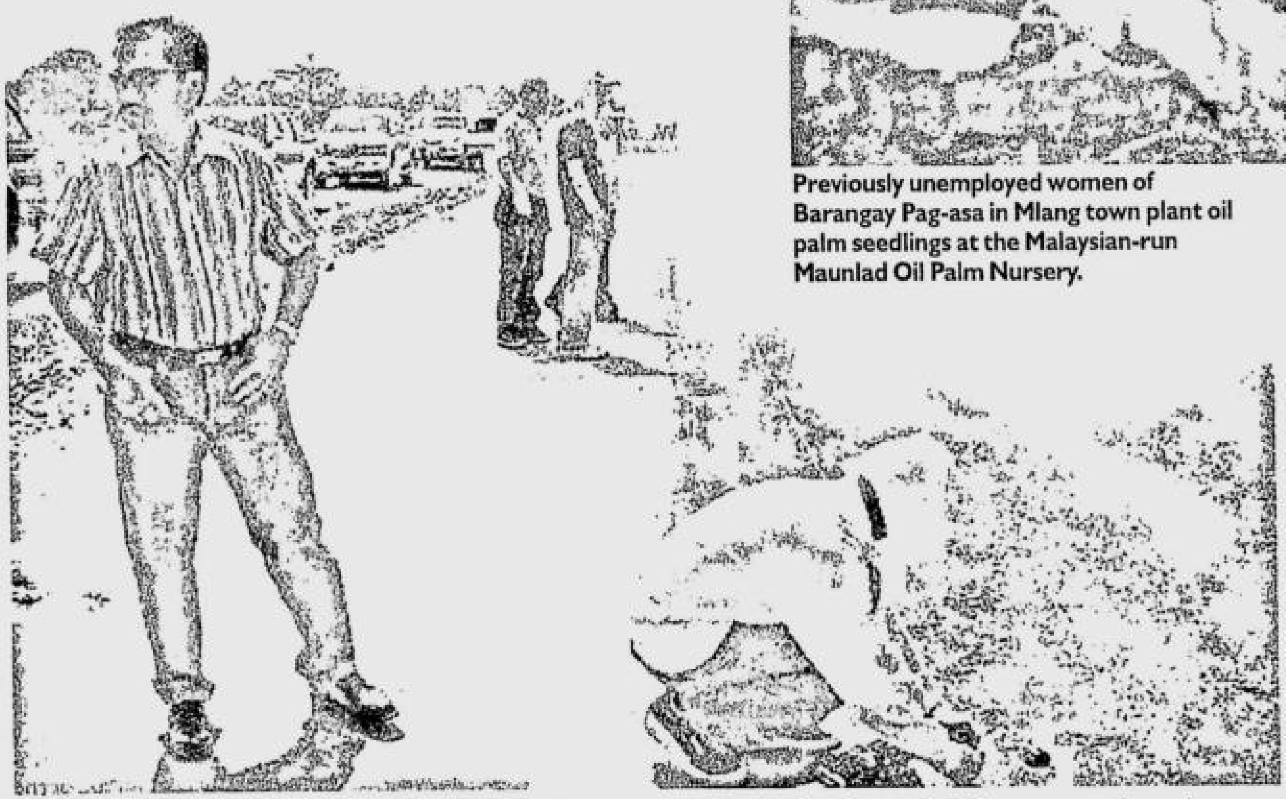
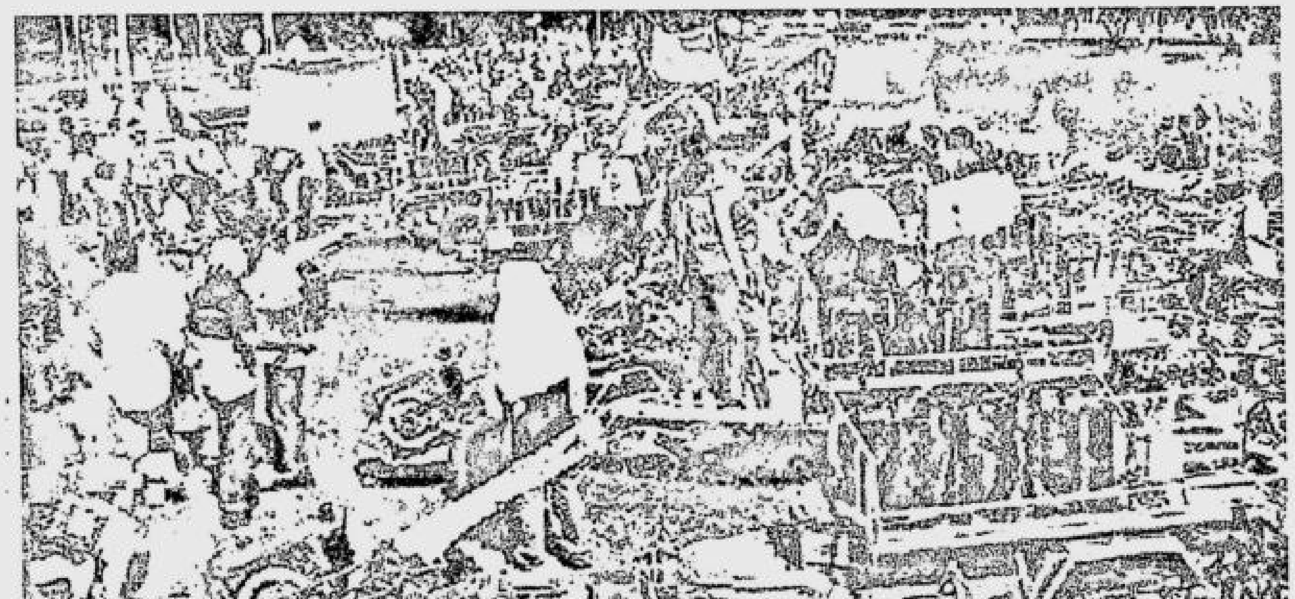


The entry of major agri-business investors opened job opportunities for local labor and made North Cotabato the leading province in jobs generation in Region 12.

Previously unemployed women of Barangay Pag-asa in Mlang town plant oil palm seedlings at the Malaysian-run Maunlad Oil Palm Nursery.



Gov. Piñol inspects asphalting of the Kidapawan-Mlang provincial road using the provincial government's newly acquired asphalt paving equipment.



Former Moro fighters from the MalMar Irrigation Project area inspect farm machineries provided to them through the MMIP Social Fund being managed by the SEED MalMar program of the provincial government.

PARTICIPANTS
to the
DIALOGUE
PIKIT PROG

Gov. Piñol hands over an oil palm seedling to a resident of Barangay Bolod in Pikit town. The former war-torn barangay now has 10 hectares planted to oil palm.

Eight years after it was listed as the province in the country, North Cotabato XII's top achiever

"We were a basket case in the 1990s," says Gov. Emmanuel F. Piñol who took over the leadership of the province in 1998.

"We were wrecked by conflict and violence which rendered much of our people poor, lacking trust in government, and seemingly hopeless. Among the very first that greeted me as local chief executive was a huge throng of hungry farmers who were suffering from the effects of El Niño which rendered their farms unproductive."

This year, the National Statistics Coordination Board ranked North Cotabato 29th among the country's more progressive provinces with the least poverty incidence, next to Pangasinan and a rank higher than South Cotabato.

"That survey, which we did not commission and which we were never aware of, proved that what we have done over the last 8 years really made a great change in the lives of the people for the province of North Cotabato," Gov. Piñol says.

As early as two years ago, North Cotabato has become Region XII's favorite investment area with three major agri-business firms involved in Cavendish banana production as leading investors.

The province posted a total of P397.49 million worth of investments in 2004, ranking second (2nd) only to General Santos City. This was a tremendous 113-percent leap in investments which the Department of Trade and Industry 12 acknowledged as the biggest in the region.

The Cotabato Province Investment Promotion Center (CPIPC) has recorded total investments made in the province from 2000 to 2004 at almost P1 billion.

This influx of investments has cons
opened more job opportunities for worke
province. New jobs generated by these inv
from 200 to 2004 reached almost 69,000
Cotabato the leading province in job gene
the region, according to DOLE-12.

These developments have also ushered
benefits—improvement of road networks.
sion of grasslands into productive areas, in
micro-business establishments in the invest
eas thus improving the quality of life of r
and increased real property tax collection. I
impacted on the age-long insurgency probl
eas like Makilala and Arakan, where the av
of a more stable source of income and bet
conditions have weakened the influence of
nist guerillas.

Investing in development

Implementing a solid rural infrastructure
ment program was among the first move
Piñol upon assuming office in 1998.

Investments were made to beef up the e
pool of the Provincial Engineering Office.
key provincial and barangay roads were re
ed and maintained, while new ones were o
better connect Cotabato's rural farming com
with the market and improve their access
the delivery of basic services.

Infrastructure projects which included th
itation of farm-to-market roads, constru
spring development projects, communal
projects, and installation of water systems
plemented in cooperation with the Mindan
Development Program and the Department
Works and Highways.

With the approval of th
niang Panlalawigan, the p
government acquired a P
phalt batching plant and a
infrastructure equipment
about P60-M.

Cotabato's rural infra
program now enters a ne
with the asphalting of p
roads. The first to benefit
program is the Apo
Homes-Singao portion of
pawan City-Mlang provinc

Work is also ongoing at
bato Rural Airport, a 64-he
port project at Tawa
M'lang,

Considered as one of
important infrastructure p
the province, the airport
the best option in shipping
ishable produce—fruits
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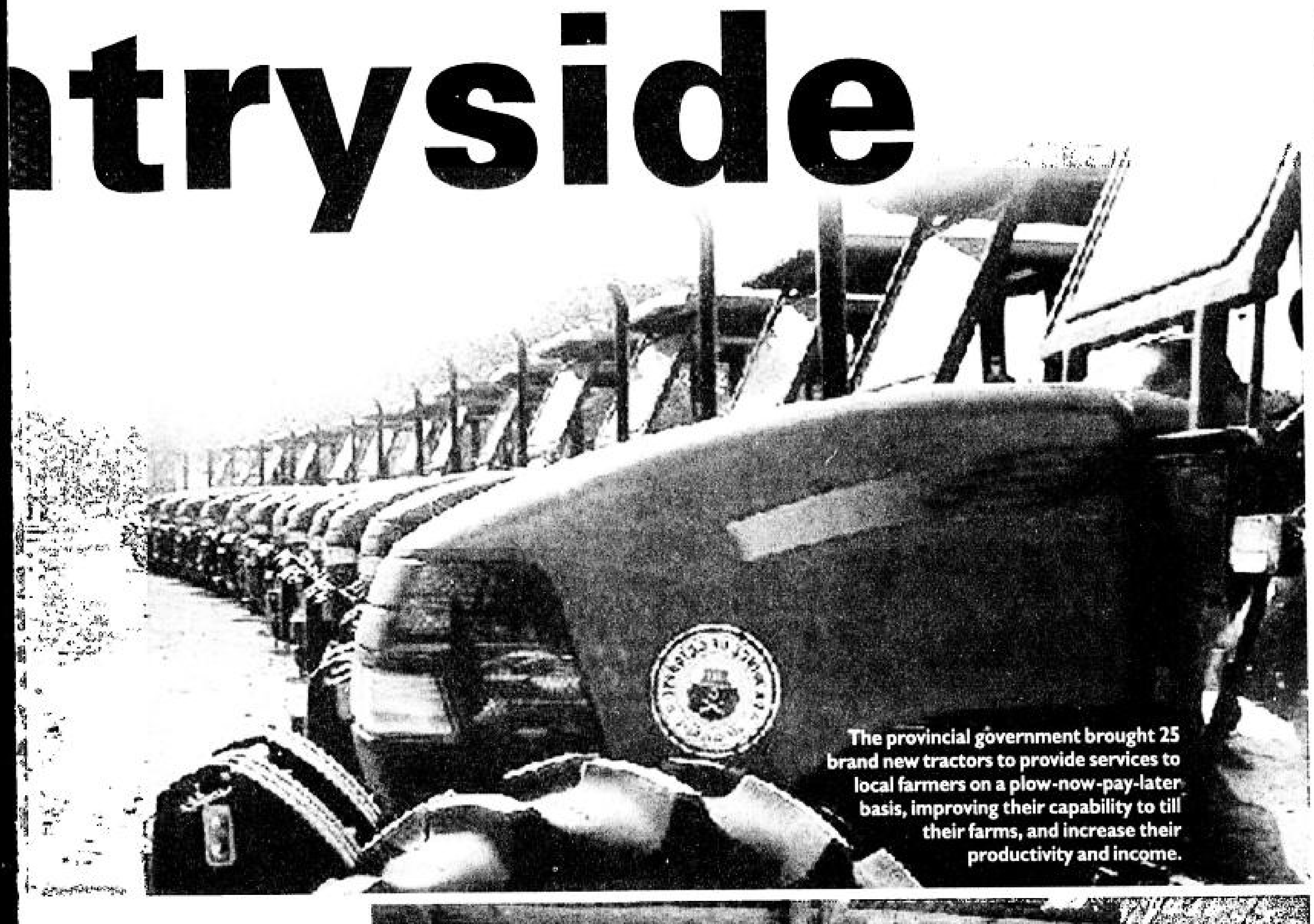

The provincial government brought 25 brand new tractors to provide services to local farmers on a plow-now-pay-later basis, improving their capability to till their farms, and increase their productivity and income.

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ties—and ensuring they arrive fresh in markets in the Visayas and Luzon.

The secondary airport would also improve the accessibility of the province to potential investors, and provide additional job opportunities for the local labor force.

Enhancing agricultural productivity

Gov. Piñol has always believed that Cotabato's agriculture is its main asset.

With the aim of helping Cotabato farmers increase their ability to work their lands, and enhance their productivity, he embarked on a carabao dispersal program early in his administration and later moved towards providing more modern agricultural services to farmers through a provincial tractor pool.

The provincial government acquired 22 units of tractors which provided field preparation services through cost recovery scheme to farmers financially incapable of procuring farm equipment and implements.

The tractors acquired in 2003 served a total area of 5,877 hectares in various municipalities around the province in the first year or operation alone.

The setting up of the tractor pool also provided jobs for the operators.

Policy redirection from traditional to market-oriented agriculture

"In North Cotabato, rice and corn farmers speak English whenever harvest time comes," Gov. Piñol told participants of the Cotabato Media Summit held recently in Kidapawan City by the Publishers' Association of the Philippines, Incorporated (PAPI).

"They talk of 'failure' and 'overdraft'. The very low price they get for their harvest hardly compensate for production expenses. Small rubber growers fare a lot better. They are able to send their children to college, and even get to drink cold beer regularly."

With rubber as flagship commodity, the provincial government made a crucial shift in Cotabato's agricultural direction, deciding that the province should have a market-oriented agriculture.

The provincial government identified four major products to be given massive support: cardava banana, hybrid coconut with the support of the Philippine Coconut Authority, oil palm and rubber.

P7.2 Million was invested in 2005 for the development of these high-value commercial crops. Recently, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan approved the allocation of an additional P10 million for rubber and another P10 million for oil palm development.

Gov. Manny Piñol shows kids from an elementary school in the largely Manobo community of Puas Enda pictures from one of the many books given to the school under the provincial government's Books For Peace program.

Riding on the rubber romp

Rubber is, however, the commodity that Gov. Piñol is most upbeat about.

"The high demand for rubber in the world market presents an opportunity for better income and employment for our farmers. It will not only generate more dollars for the country, but can help tremendously in the greening of the Philippines," Gov. Piñol maintains.

"500 million trees planted in 1 million hectares in a 10-year rubber development program will provide 500,000 new jobs, P120 billion in foreign earnings, and P2.5 billion in local taxes."

Cotabato's rubber advocacy has since gained momentum.

During the opening program of the week-long celebration of North Cotabato's 91st foundation anniversary last year, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban brought good news to the people of North Cotabato by way of a P5-million initial support fund for the provincial government's rubber development program.

The fund has been used to finance the provincial government's barangay-based rubber development program which set up rubber seedling nurseries in the different barangays to provide planting materials to farmers on a plant-now-pay-later basis.

Rubber has been made part of the DA-DAR-DENR Convergence Program, and DENR Undersecretary Manny Gerochi has promised to include rubber in the agency's reforestation program in areas where it would be suitable.

The national rubber program is set to be launched at the Cotabato provincial gymnasium by Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban today, August 31, during the weeklong foundation anniversary celebration of the province which culminates tomorrow, September 1.

Celebrating hope

"To me the greatest achievement of any leader is seeing that the lives of his people have improved, seeing that they welcome the new day with a smile on their faces, a sign of hope-filled life in a land with a brighter future," Gov. Piñol says.

"We have moved closer to the fulfillment of this dream."

The provincial government set out on a province-wide barangay-based rubber nursery development program as part of its refocused agricultural development program bannered by rubber.

Republic of the Philippines
Region XII
PROVINCE OF COTABATO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Amas, Kidapawan City

My dear people of North Cotabato,

As we celebrate our 92nd Foundation Anniversary with this year's Hinugyaw, I find it appropriate to look back at our story for the past eight years. Ours is a story of a people's struggle and of a people's victory.

We were a garbage case in the 1990s. We were the fifth poorest province in the country, wrecked by conflict and violence which rendered much of our people poor, unproductive, lacking trust in government, and seemingly hopeless.

Faced with this sad reality when I assumed office as Governor in 1998, I had to ask myself - how do I serve my people? How do I improve their lives? How do I make sure that their children will be able to eat three times a day, go to school, and have a better future? How do I make sure that at night when they sleep in their homes, in the hinterlands, in their farms, there would be no fear in their hearts? That they can sleep soundly, assured that the following day when they wake up, the sun will rise and they will be able to work in their farms.

The challenges we faced then were tremendous and daunting.

We were confronted with limited health services, unemployment, the absence of access to credit and financing, lack of education, lack of transportation and inaccessible communities. It was a situation that reflected a seemingly unending cycle of massive poverty and social injustice.

In our desire to achieve for our people a better quality of life which undoubtedly has long been overdue them, we set for our self a program of governance that would address what we perceived to be the key socio-economic and political concerns that are crucial in fighting poverty and social injustice in North Cotabato.

We started our rural development efforts, counting investments in rural infrastructure, investments in changing the development mindset of our leaders and people, investments in peace and in our youth, and a refocused agricultural development program among our strategies.

With the implementation of the different programs designed at improving people's productivity, regaining their confidence in government, we slowly moved up, and it was not until last year when we actually realized how much we have done.

We were second highest in investments in Region XII two years in a row. We were number 1 in jobs generation. And this year, the National Statistics Coordination Board, which surveys the whole country every year in terms of poverty incidence among families in each locality came up with its survey results indicating that from being the fifth poorest province in the country in 1998, we jumped 51 ranks up the ladder.

Today we are ranked 29th among the most progressive provinces, behind Pangasinan, and one rank higher than South Cotabato. To me there is no other validation scheme that would prove that the things that we have done worked well for the people

That survey, which we did not commission and which we were never aware of, proved that what we have done over the last 8 years really made a great change in the lives of the people for the province of North Cotabato.

To me the greatest achievement of any leader is seeing that the lives of his people have improved and seeing that they welcome the new day with a smile on their faces.

My dream as Governor of this province has always been to build a community where people can walk to a new day with a smile on their faces, are able to send their children to school, able to feed their children three times a day, and live in a community where there is no conflict, where Muslims, Christians and the tribal people understand the meaning of harmony, of unity, and of the common search for a better life.

We have moved closer to the fulfillment of this dream - reason enough for us to celebrate life, peace, and prosperity with Hinugyaw!

Mabuhay tayong lahat sa North Cotabato!

EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Governor

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Worse punishment

EDITORIAL

SOME 17,000 NURSING GRADUATES WHO HURdled the board examinations last June must now be feeling greatly relieved. It seems to be just a matter of time before they will be allowed to take their professional oath without having to take the exams all over again or even just the two subjects whose results had been set aside on account of cheating.

Although groups of nurses, educators and students have been able to stop the oath-taking by getting the Court of Appeals to issue a temporary restraining order, President Macapagal-Arroyo has said she doesn't want those who made the grade to take the exams again. In a radio interview last Monday, Ms Arroyo said she had directed Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero of the Professional Regulation Commission "to look for a solution to the problem to punish only the guilty without punishing the innocent."

First on the list of innocents was Rosero herself, whom Ms Arroyo declared to be blameless. "The PRC chairperson is responsible for a lot of exams and this is the only one that had problems," she explained. In other places, once would have been enough, given the embarrassment and damage the scandal has wreaked on the examinees, the nursing profession, the PRC and the entire system of administering tests to determine admission into the various professions. And there's little reason to believe—as the President does—that this one time when a leakage was exposed was the only time cheating happened in professional licensure examinations. So how many more "problems" have to develop during Rosero's watch before she is given her walking papers? Will the President count 7 times 70 times?

Ms Arroyo agrees with many examinees and their supporters that to order new exams would be to punish the guilty and the innocent alike. But how does one separate one group from the other, considering the number of review centers and schools that allegedly got copies of the examination questions? And how can anyone be sure the leakage didn't find its way to other examinees?

Making the examinees take a second test would undoubtedly be an added burden to their families, who will have to shoulder the expenses for their review, their travel and the testing fee. But that's one problem that can be solved quite easily. Help, in fact, is being offered by various sectors. At least three of the country's best nursing schools have agreed to open their doors to graduates who want to review. The Philippine Nurses Association of America is reportedly raising funds to help the graduates. On Tuesday, the House of Representatives approved a P14-million allocation for the examinees if new exams are ordered. In addition, the PRC can—or should waive—the testing fee. And the exams can be held in various cities to cut travel.

But while the added financial burden to the examinees' families is being underscored by those who oppose the holding of fresh exams, the more formidable obstacle is really the reluctance of the graduates to submit to a new test. To those who passed the exams honestly, going through another test constitutes an unfair and undeserved punishment.

But unless they do it, they are likely to suffer a more crippling and cruel punishment, which is being denied the opportunity to practice their profession. Some graduates who have applied for training or employment have been turned away by various hospitals. The Philippine General Hospital, for one, has announced that it would not be accepting nurses from the batch of June examinees. The University of Sto. Tomas which has been pushing for new exams is unlikely to welcome them. If local hospitals refuse to accept them, can they realistically hope to be hired by foreign ones? For many, a refusal to take a new test could mean the end of their American dream or any dream they have of making a decent living for themselves and for their families.

It's becoming clear that a punishment worse than taking a new test awaits the unhappy and unlucky batch of nursing graduates. Unfortunately, our officials are not about to stop them from taking that course.

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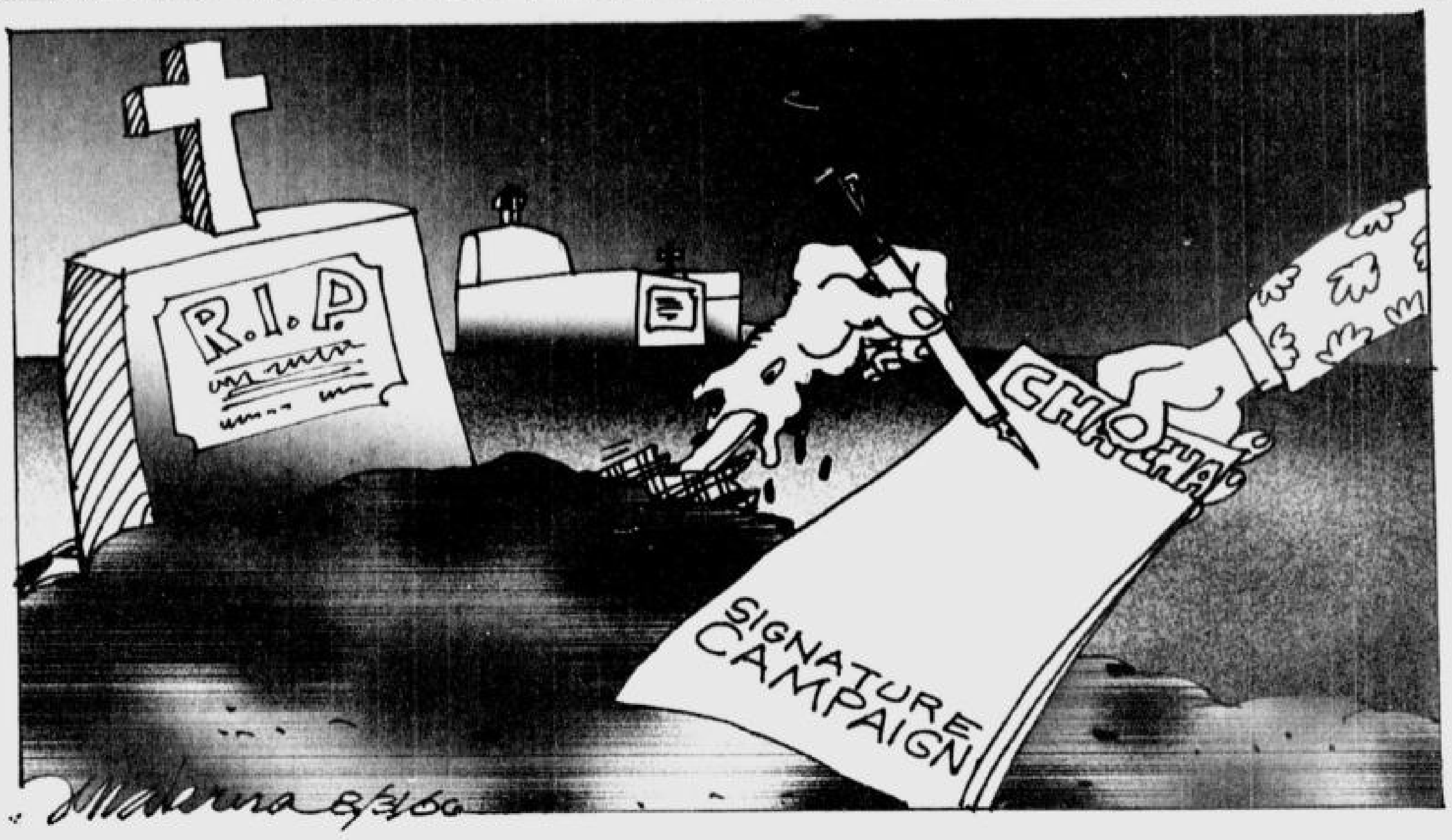

Democracy of the dead?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"IN THE DEMOCRACY OF THE DEAD ALL ARE at least equal," the old axiom claims. But in this country and region, entry into the cemetery's classless society is often unequal. Death rates among infants born of poor families are "two or three times higher than those for the rich," Asian Development Bank notes.

Birth in gated enclaves or fetid slums determines who go into earlier graves—an obscene inequality. "Equal opportunity is good but special privilege is better," a political heiress cynically snaps.

These questions arise in "Measuring Policy Effectiveness in Health and Education" the theme chapter of which is woven into ADB's 2006 Key Indicators. A team led by Ajay Tandon wrote the 75-page chapter. It marshals the most recent studies to "form an analytical framework," should policymakers ever get around to dismantling inequalities that have curdled into inequity.

Countries like China, India and Singapore have surged economically. However, "unacceptably large proportions of Asia's population remain near-poor and vulnerable."

"Out of every 100 Chinese, 41 still scrape by on $2 a day. For Filipinos, the corresponding number is 44 and for Pakistanis 72. "These are staggeringly large numbers, amounting to almost 1.9 billion people."

Education is the ancient escape hatch from poverty. "Who can use a writing brush will never beg," the Chinese proverb says. But that exit is welded shut for many. "Poorer households are almost three times more likely to be out of school than those of richer households."

Tiny coffins and wizened infants are visible indicators of disparities in health. Sickness brings in its trail more poverty. "Illness comes on horseback but departs on foot," as the old axiom puts it.

Close to half of child deaths stem from four diseases: acute respiratory infections, diarrhea, measles and HIV/AIDs. "A large proportion of these are contracted and transmitted in conditions of poverty: crowded living quarters, indoor and outdoor air pollution, unsafe drinking water and improper sanitation."

Yet, simple measures can dramatically trim the number of graves. "Improving access to safe-drinking water by 10 percent could induce a reduction in child mortality by 3 percent," a World Health Organization study asserts.

How do these dull figures work out, in human terms, for a place, say, like Tawi-Tawi? There, 82 out of every 100 residents drink from often-polluted wells. Add a liter of clean water to the 10 available. Would three more kids, in Yeats' phrase, "live to comb grey hair"?

That's the significance of the recently completed government/ADB project to provide water to 80 small towns. Safe water flowed from the taps of 2.1 million people—60 percent of them living below poverty levels.

"No indicator captures the divergence in human development more powerfully than child mortality," UN's Human Development Report 2005 asserts. Here, 27 out of every 1,000 die at childbirth—better than Laos' tragic 82 but far behind Malaysia's 7. "Discontent arises from the knowledge of what is possible," UK parliamentarian Aneurin Bevan once said.

Thus, 169 countries agreed, in 1990, to whittle down infant mortality rates by two-thirds by 2015. We are now past the halfway mark of this time-bound Millennium Development Goal. Where do we stand?

The Philippines clocked in at 68 percent of target. That's better than Thailand's 65 percent; but it trails Vietnam's 85 percent. Infant deaths tragically increased in Cambodia and Kazakhstan. And there's been only "negligible" progress in Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea.

A comparison of demographic/health surveys from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Kazakhstan found: "Inequalities in child mortality, by wealth level, increased from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s." Health facilities are lopsided, not only between the rich and the poor, but also between the rural and the urban populations.

A study of 45 countries reveals that "public spending matters significantly for the health of the poor." The Philippines, like most Asian countries, spend less than $100 per capita for health. "One cannot expect public expenditure to be effective if there is not enough being spent to begin with." The health kitty must not only be larger but the sharing must tilt to favor the weaker.

But no amount of money will improve health if it's "spent ineffectively to begin with." In many countries, much goes for "activities that yield low marginal improvements. Large sums go for tertiary hospitals while rural primary health centers run down."

The "lack of funds" excuse doesn't wash either. Health services in Kerala in India and Sri Lanka proved far better than in other better-endowed governments. Shoddy health services often signify "lack of political will or inability to implement effective social policies," i.e., lack of backbone and incompetence.

Experience shows dramatic improvements can come from results-focused interventions on precisely defined impoverished groups, ADB says. These include: food fortification, school health programs, midday meals, conditional cash transfers, food for education, etc.

Policymakers must move beyond rhetoric and adopt corrective policies. For that, they will have to swap politicial platitudes for rigorous analysis of why those death rates remain stubbornly high. That is the only basis for effective corrective policies.

One more thing: "Policymakers must be held accountable for the remaining deficiencies." For this is not just another "expensive hypothetical exercise." This is seeking hope for a fuller life.

"He who has health has hope," the old Arabian proverb says. "And he who has hope has everything."

* * *

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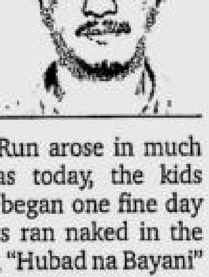
Naked truth

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

THAT WAS AN AWESOME THING THE UP students did last Monday in answer to Raul Gonzalez's remarks about what the University of the Philippines had become. It was the perfect response to it. No, more than that, it was the most poetic response to it.

Last weekend, Gonzalez derided UP for having become the breeding ground of destabilizers and the lacking-in-breeding ground of exhibitionists. Well, he didn't say the latter, he doesn't have the imagination for it, what he said was that it was a place where naked people ran around. He said UP students should really be thankful their government was spending to educate them.

The kids responded by having 15 of their fellows run around the campus in their pristine state in a special edition of the Oblation Run, traditionally done around Christmas. Who says you can't have Christmas in August? The Run wasn't just meant to regale the audience, many of whom were women, with the truth about the body electric, it meant to expose to them the truth about the body politic.

At the very least, the kids did bring out some naked truths the justice secretary can no longer see. Chief of them is whom they owed for their education. As University Student Council chair Juan Paolo Alfonso pointed out, it was the people who were paying for their education, not government. Taxpayers' money is money that belongs to the people, not to Raul Gonzalez or his boss, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Tyrants, petty or otherwise, do have a way of forgetting that pristine truth. Tyrants, petty or otherwise, have a way of thinking that money entrusted to them by the people to be used for the people is theirs to dispense with as they like, or keep for themselves.

At the very most, the kids did bring out some naked truths their so-called elders-and-betters—no, pretty nearly the rest of their countrymen—can no longer see. Chief of them is that we have been plunged back right into martial law and are compelled to fight with the same weapons the previous generation used to fight martial law. The Oblation Run arose in much the same circumstances as today, the kids protesting epic fakeness. It began one fine day in 1977 when five students ran naked in the campus to promote the play, "Hubad na Bayani" ("Naked Hero"), satirizing Ferdinand Marcos. "Hubad na Bayani," of course, sounds like "Huwad na Bayani" ("Fake Hero"), which was what Marcos was. We had a fake hero then, we have a fake President now, both without a mandate to rule. The kids stripped the fakeness from Marcos' medals then, the kids are stripping the fakeness from GMA's votes now.

If I recall right, UP went on to become a beacon of light in a time of darkness during martial law. The UP Collegian in particular rushed in where the national newspapers feared to tread, and the UP Law Center went boldly on where others had not gone before. If the UP people can resurrect that role in these new times of darkness and despair, may all my prayers to the God of (Poetic) Justice go with them.

Nakedness is the perfect metaphor, or to borrow a phrase from T.S. Eliot, the perfect "objective correlative," to draw attention to our condition today. Democracy is transparent, tyranny is opaque. Democracy is plain to see, tyranny hides behind subterfuges. Democracy is naked, tyranny wraps itself up in folds of deception.

Democracy is beautiful in all its nakedness, tyranny is ugly in all its cover-ups.

The guardians of Filipino morals, who bristle at the sight of nakedness in movies and elsewhere, including real life, will of course rail against this as an affront to Good Manners and Right Conduct. They are probably the same people who railed against Theresa Pangilinan for heckling her school's guest of honor, who happened to be GMA, during their graduation. Well, I've said my piece about Pangilinan. She at least was a genuine graduate, the speaker was a fake President. She at least had earned her degree by hard work, the speaker had won her title by Garci.

The Oblation Run may very well be the shock treatment this country needs to strip it of the indifference and cynicism that now cover its heart like calluses and its soul like barnacles. At the very least, it shows up a justice secretary who finds shocking the sight of kids displaying their formidable assets to a giggling world, but finds perfectly just and respectable the sight, or sound, of a candidate plotting with "a Comelec official" to kidnap a poll watcher who is protesting fraud. It shows up a justice secretary who finds outrageous the sight of kids parading before the world the things they ought to be covering up, but finds perfectly lawful and godly the sight of Garci, Joc Joc and all the other officials the Senate has been trying to summon in vain, covering up the things they ought to be parading before the world.

But never mind the justice secretary. He doesn't need help from outside to show himself up, he does a good job of it himself every time he opens his mouth. Mind only ourselves or what we have become, a people who have lost the capacity to weep and gnash our teeth at the sight of so much death and dying. What is truly indecent, the sight of naked bodies traipsing gleefully in the groves of academe or the sight of bodies caked in blood and being eaten by the worms in the paddies of Nueva Ecija and Bulacan, courtesy of one Jovito Palparan? What is truly reprehensible, the spectacle of kids shedding off clothes in protest of iniquity to the laughter and titillation of the world, or the spectacle of a usurper's mindless minions shedding blood in protest of sheer life to build a garrison state from a mountain of bleached bone?

Democracy is resplendently robed in all its nakedness. Tyranny is obscenely naked in all its finery.

Punish the board wrongdoers

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DOUBTLESS, I BELONG TO THE MAJORITY who feel that most nursing graduates who took the June 2006 board exams were the victims and so they should not be punished. Moreover, singling out the very small fraction who took part in that scam would be very hard to do. The ones who ought to be punished are the nursing board officials who leaked out the questions, some on behalf of enrollees in their schools (a clear case of conflict of interest). For years irregularities have plagued the Professional Regulation Commission's boards and it's time they are cleaned up and wrongdoers are punished.

At stake is the reputation of our nurses, especially those aspiring to work abroad. Which is a pity, for until this scam, they enjoyed a good reputation. At our lunch with British Ambassador Peter Beckingham, he recalled that his late aunt had been a patient at a hospice in Brighton, where the chief nurse, whom the old lady was quite fond of, was a Filipina. At a recent conference in Cebu, a Stanford-educated speaker said nurses in their hospital were great favorites over American nurses. In fact, his friends all dated Pinay nurses and two of them ended up marrying them. It's that deadly TLC.

* * *

We queried Beckingham how Britain regards the administration and he spoke of developments that indicate the level of confidence of his government. For one thing, the British Embassy will start constructing this January its own three-story building, worth about $20 million in Global City (the second embassy to move from Makati to Taguig, the first being Singapore). The big British clothing firm, Debenhams, will open next week its second branch in Rustan's. Moreover, he said, the Philippines has been included among the 10 countries in Britain's Economic Governance Programme (the others are: China, India, Brazil, Russia, as well as Indonesia, South Africa, Nigeria, Mexico and Argentina). This one-year-old P30 million program in RP, he said, has helped encourage greater competition and better corporate governance as well as improve the country's investment climate. Among the projects are the improvement of public service delivery through "Citizen's Charters" in Laoag, Sorsogon, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Digos and Iligan; enhancing an E-auction for the NFA; developing an anti-corruption communications campaign; strengthening local governance; capacity-building on economic issues for the judiciary; and technical assistance to the Energy Regulatory Commission. The envoy said this program will continue for two more years.

* * *

A few weeks back, I appealed for sponsors for the students of Erda Technical Vocational High School, where I serve pro bono as its PR. Erda Tech, founded by Fr. Pierre Tritz, gives free academic and technical training to the poorest of Metro Manila's poor, so that they can find employment right after graduation. Father Tritz believes that only through education and training can the poor break the cycle of poverty. Among the technical courses offered by Erda Tech are electrical, automotive, computer, carpentry, welding and baking. Each student specializes in a particular skill during his fourth year, followed by in-plant training in fifth year. Now on its 12th year of operation, Erda Tech has graduated more than 700 students.

But each year the school, which survives entirely on private donations, is short of sponsors. This year there are still about 200 unsponsored students. Kind readers looking for a direct way to help the country should find an Erda Tech sponsorship most effective. Tuition for first year is P20,930 and for the second year, P23,000. For details, call Leah R. Daep, sponsorship coordinator, at 564-1856, 564-2608 or e-mail erdatech@vasia.com or erdatech@skyinet. net

* * *

Last Saturday's report about the international conference on the life and work of the late Jesuit philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, to be held at the Ateneo University's Escaler Hall from Aug. 31-Sept. 3, drew many queries about the schedule of various speakers. Here it is:

***Thursday, Aug. 31*: 4:30 p.m. registration; 6:00-7:30 p.m. Opening Invocation by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco and Opening Remarks by Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., Ateneo president; Introduction by Fr. Georg Ziselsberger, SVD, chair of International Teilhard Asia 2006, of the theme, "From the Desert of Despair to a Faith in the Future."**

***Friday, Sept. 1*, Creation Day: 8:30-10 a.m.—1st Main Address by Dr. Ursula King, former chair of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Bristol, UK, on "Teilhard's Significance for a Planetary Ethics and Creation Spiritualities"; 10:30-12:00 a.m.—2nd Main Address by physicist Sr. Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, president of Metanexus Institute for Science and Religion, on "Teilhard's Science: The Spiritual Power of Matter"; 2-3:30 p.m.—Presentation by Princeton University's Jennifer Morgan of her "Universe Story Trilogy" (hailed by The New York Times and The American Association for the Advancement of Science); 4-5 p.m.—Launch of Morgan's third Trilogy book, "Mammals Who Morph."**

***Saturday, Sept. 2*; 8:30-10 a.m.—3rd Main Address by Fr. Henri Boulad, S.J., former superior of Jesuit House in Alexandria, Egypt, international vice president of Caritas for Middle East and North Africa and author of over 30 books in 14 foreign languages, on "Teilhard between Mysticism & Science"; 10:30-12 noon—Open Forum (Q & A) with all the keynote speakers.**

***Sunday, Sept. 3*: 8-9:30 a.m.—4th Main Address by Fr. Mario Jose Francisco, S.J., president of the Loyola School of Theology, on "Culture, the Third Partner in the Science-Religion Conversation: A Philippine Perspective."**

Arvind Kejriwal's battle against corruption

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

SO YOUNG AND SO BRAVE. THE OPPOSITE OF that now-famous line that once aptly described a Filipino bureaucrat-turned politician: So young and so corrupt.

Arvind Kejriwal of India is this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leadership. Only 38 years old, Kejriwal has spent six years now fighting corruption that is so ingrained in India's bureaucracy. It has not been a desperate, useless battle though. His efforts have yielded results and benefited the simple and the lowly, whose concerns might not have merited the attention of the high and the mighty.

I caught up with Kejriwal the other day during the launching of RM Award Foundation's (RMAF) 3rd, 4th and 5th volumes of "Great Men and Women of Asia" (Anvil Publishing)—must-haves for school libraries. Kejriwal's battles must indeed soon be part of the inspiring stories in these books (for which I have written a number of stories) that should inspire the young and confound the wise and, uh, wily.

(RMAF formal awarding ceremonies will be held tonight at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. INQUIRER founding chair Eugenia "Eggie" Apostol is this year's awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts.)

Kejriwal finished engineering but landed in the Indian Revenue Service early on. It's most everyone's dream to work in the civil service, Kejriwal explained. As a deputy commissioner for income tax, he saw bribe-taking as a matter of course. He saw how this affected ordinary citizens. In the beginning, Kejriwal's appeals to tax officials went for naught so he and several kindred spirits initiated a Public Interest Litigation, directing the department to implement a transparency plan. This was followed by a non-violent protest and a warning that the media would be around.

Kejriwal took a leave from his job and with his group, Parivartan (meaning "change"), first zeroed in on the government-run electricity department where paying of bribes was the order of the day. Any transaction made by consumers—electrical installation, complaints on bills and the like—meant grease money.

Parivartan pushed and popularized its "Don't pay bribes!" campaign. It offered consumers a hand by facilitating their dealings with the electricity department. In no time, Parivartan was able to demand action on thousands of cases without a cent being handed over to bribe-takers.

Kejriwal explained that there are two types of bribery—the extortional and the mutual. The first is common in government offices where people go to get things done. You don't get things done if you don't pay bribe money. The second happens between the bribe-taker and the briber. Your tax due could be lowered in your favor if you give the taxman something. Both profit from the deal.

This is not something new. But discovering innovative and successful means to curb it is always a challenge.

Because of what Parivartan started, the Delhi Right to Information Act of 2001 was soon passed, giving citizens the right to inspect government documents, follow up and demand to know what government agencies are doing or have done.

Kejriwal and Parivartan first put this law to use in a New Delhi slum area by monitoring a public works project. Not long after, residents did a "social audit" of 68 more projects. They held meetings and street plays, conducted public hearings and revealed their findings of misappropriations and embezzlement in 64 projects in the amount of 7 million rupees.

The residents of that area learned how to monitor projects block by block and to examine contracts before projects are started.

Another case involved wheat and rice rations for the poor. Parivartan discovered and exposed how 90 percent was being skimmed off by government officials in collusion with traders.

But boldness and alacrity on the part of the bribe-busters had a price. One Parivartan member was brutally attacked. He luckily survived. (He is here with Kejriwal.) Some 5,000 residents staged protests and a "rations fast" to demand a cleanup. The government acted.

Kejriwal pointed out that not everyone in the bureaucracy is corrupt. "But honesty may not get you the best post," he said. There is a chain from the bottom to the top, and the honest one who becomes a "block in the chain" could be relegated to the sidelines, he said.

And what about the work they had started by helping people do "no-bribe" transactions? Yes, they were worried about dependency, Kejriwal admitted, and they could not always be there to watch over everything.

And so the next step was to draft a citizen's "Right to Information" form that contained the citizens' rights as well as their demand to know the status of their complaint, request or transaction. It is a weapon, a strong way of saying to the officials concerned: "I expect service from you."

Within three months 200 people who used this method were able to get the service they needed.

Now on its seventh year, Parivartan has only 10 full-time members but it has trained 1,700 volunteers from about 700 organizations. Parivartan, Kejriwal explains, is more of a movement rather than an institution. As such, it is not registered and operates without institutional funding. It gets its support from ordinary citizens who want to see it continue. It has linked up with NGOs across India so more ordinary citizens, the poor especially, would be empowered, and the government would be accountable to them.

Kejriwal always reminds that services should be delivered honestly and conscientiously because the citizens—the poor especially—are entitled to them.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Farewell to Frank

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IT BEGAN WITH AN E-MAIL I RECEIVED OUT of the blue. May I tell you about a book I've written, he wrote in his e-mail, and about how the book was recently launched at the Philippine Embassy? I still have that e-mail, dated Dec. 22, 2003. Eventually, he arranged to send me a copy of his book; about a year after I received my copy, I had the pleasure of asking him to personally sign it when, at last, we met.

It was in Cincinnati, Ohio. The occasion was the culmination of a series of events his book, "Escape to Manila," had inspired. A member of a dwindling band of individuals who called themselves the "Manilaner"—refugees from Hitler's persecution of the Jews, who found refuge in the Philippines prior to World War II—he had set out to capture the stories of his fellow refugees and describe their experiences. His efforts eventually resulted in a list of the 1,318 individuals who managed to secure a visa to the Philippines, and in the publication of his marvelous book, by the University of Illinois.

In Ohio, a series of commemorations were held, but most important of all, I think, was the chance given to Manilaners to hold a reunion of sorts, and to interact with Filipinos for whom the refugees held a great and enduring affection. He was, of course, and fittingly so, lionized during those events; and there were the corresponding spring in his steps and twinkle in his eyes that went beyond pride in authorship. He was, in every possible and meaningful sense, fulfilling a tremendous personal and community obligation: to bear witness.

And bear witness, he did. It is sadly often the case that those who live through events of tremendous importance, and who undergo experiences that are remarkable for what they can teach us about both the good and the bad, about being human, are often hesitant to make a permanent memorial of what they've lived through. Part of it may be the joy of being alive—and of being able to firmly leave behind a nightmarish period in one's life. Or it could be the thought that the horrors one has lived through, shouldn't be inflicted, even in the retelling, on the young. Whatever the reason, admirable is the person who begs, pleads, cajoles and convinces others to face the past, and record it for the future.

We often hear, when reference is made to grim and shocking events, "Oh, it could never happen here," or "I'm sure it's all being exaggerated," or "There are always two sides to a story and they're biased." It isn't easy to say such things, if there are witnesses around to attest to their experiences. But what happens when the witnesses are gone? What was once real becomes a myth; what was once incontestable is reduced to being debatable; what was once horrible is now said to be mundane.

When he first decided to put pen to paper, I'm sure he discovered a few things he didn't expect—that there were, among his contemporaries, those who simply preferred to keep their memories locked up; that there were young people skeptical of what he was setting out to recapture and record; that others were convinced he was making a big deal out of something not as important as he assumed; and that there were those who grew tired of his travels, his research—first over weeks, then months and years—in pursuit of a story. His story, and those of others.

We can only know in retrospect that his book came out not a moment too soon, though soon enough for him to know his book was being read, and had made its mark—the greatest validation, and vindication, of an author.

He bore a remarkable resemblance to the American character actor, Wallace Shawn. He wasn't a large man, and his cherubic appearance disguised a formidable intellect and a ferocious capacity for hard work. He was—perhaps because of his German origin, though his adult life was spent in the United States—a courtly man, polite and considerate as only a member of an older generation can be. He was, too, an enthusiastic story-teller, with a solid memory for details. Listening to him describe prewar Manila was a treat; having him recount his feelings and impressions as a young boy fleeing the Nazis with his family, and undertaking the hegira from Germany to Asia, was to be where'd he'd been, feel what he'd felt: sharing in the fright, wonderment and relief of it all.

I saw him again in May of last year, when the President, through Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, conferred on him the Order of Lakandula. He was accompanied by his family, and positively glowed with pride. He would tell me, in whispered aside, that for a Jew, it was so easy to enjoy the company of Filipinos: "You are so similar to us, in your fatalism and your affections."

He fully expected to write more. I understand he was looking forward to the birth of a granddaughter in September. These two joys, further authorship and pride in an addition to his family, were not to be his. As was another joy he had hoped to experience—a sentimental visit to Manila.

In the spring of this year, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He passed away last Sunday. The acting Philippine ambassador and the head of our cultural section attended the funeral to represent the country.

On the Internet, as it surely did over the telephone and from person to person, the sad news passed, and with each passing-on, a small tribute here and there, a memory, a reflection: and overall, a sense of loss tempered only by a sense of appreciation that he had done what he had set out to do, and done it so well. He gathered the stories, he told them, he passed them on and made them part of the story of our own lives.

Frank Ephraim, engineer, civil servant, author, husband, father and grandfather, witness. February 19, 1931-August 27, 2006. Rest in peace.

Good outside, rotten inside

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.
—Diogenes Laertius

YOUNG BLOOD

Nicole Anne A. Asis

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH AT A PUBLIC elementary school situated in the heart of Manila for my practicum this semester. It is the first time I am immersed in the shocking reality of our country's public education system. After spending my formative years in a private school for girls run by nuns and studying for almost five years now in a leading university administered by Dominican priests, I must say I am privileged and sheltered.

I didn't know firsthand that children went to school in rags or that they learned very little in school. I couldn't believe that teachers subjected their pupils to verbal and physical punishment. I had read newspaper articles and watched documentaries about such things, but nothing prepared me to see them with my own eyes. This is the bitter truth about our educational system, and it has been like this for at least three decades.

The first day I went to the school is still vivid in my mind. To me, the four-story school building was quite imposing for a public school. Its façade was freshly painted peach, with maroon trims. The moment I entered the huge green gate, I immediately noticed the paintings on the walls, pictures depicting friendly rapport between students and teachers as well as statements of the rights of a child. In the quadrangle were acacia trees, plants and flowers as well as a garden for the students to tend. In the north, east and west wings were the classrooms for Grades 1 to 6. The south wing was for special education students, and it was separated from the rest of the campus by its distance and bars. The school also had rooms devoted for special subjects like journalism, guidance counseling, special music and arts classes, a clinic, a prayer room and library.

All of us in our group of five agreed that the campus looked so beautiful we could not believe that we were in a public school.

But that is about everything nice we can say about the school. For the wonderful buildings and campus actually camouflage the rotten system that is eating up the institution. The nice façade cannot hide the bitter truth that our educational system is dying and our youth are being shortchanged by the system.

Many Grade 6 pupils do not have a grasp of simple math and grammar. Some students in Grade 4 cannot even read. Some who know how to read cannot comprehend what they are reading. Many spell words incorrectly and just as many cannot construct simple sentences. Here are a few examples of sentences constructed by Grade 4 students: "My Mother is God." "Ay love my mother." "My mother is sweet fruits."

Their teachers, on the other hand, can barely live from what they earn. Their average salary is P10,000 monthly, plus a P2,000 living allowance, and that is before taxes and contributions to the GSIS, Pag-Ibig, etc. are deducted. To supplement her income, one teacher sells Stick-O wafers and candies inside her classroom. Because of the scarcity of teachers with specialized training, most of the teachers are forced to teach subjects they are not qualified to handle.

One day, I asked one of the teachers why she chose to teach there when she could have worked in a private school and probably gotten a higher pay. She answered, "I stay here out of love for the children and to be of service to our country." And she said it with conviction and pride and without a tinge of doubt or hesitation. But ironically, just a few hours after our uplifting conversation, I see her pulling the ears of pupils who failed to give the correct answers to her questions during an exercise.

One time when I was teaching music to a Grade 6 class, I reprimanded one student who was rowdy. When he ignored my exhortation, the cooperating teacher took off one of her shoes and hit the child on the head. I had to stop her before things got out of hand. But it was a shock to see a teacher violating things she was supposed to teach her pupils, including good manners and right conduct as well as their rights. Where is the love for children here or the dedication to the profession?

I remember that in her first State of the Nation Address, President Macapagal-Arroyo presented three young children and read the hopes and dreams they had written on paper boats. She promised to make it a priority of her administration to make those hopes and dreams come true. Now I ask her: What happened to that promise? The budget for the Department of Education is much less than what we pay for the government's debts. Will the time ever come when the government will make our children's education the top priority as the Constitution says? Will the government give our teachers the attention they deserve and give them what they need? Is the government blind to many abuses being committed in the classroom? Is our country dying because of the rotten system in the public schools?

What are we going to do about this problem? For the students, I have this unsolicited advice: Study harder, obey your teachers and dream big. To the teachers, I say: Be more patient, respect your students and treat them as human beings. To government leaders, I say: Please listen to the children and provide them what they need especially for their education. Let us unite and reform the system. And let us make education a right, and not a privilege. For that is the key to success for our people and the whole nation.

Nicole Anne A. Asis, 21, is a 5th year music student, major in music education, at the University of Sto. Tomas Conservatory of Music.

THEY SAID

Ironic plea

"It may really be an irony that we are now asking justice from the government, which we also have been pointing to as being the possible perpetrator of these killings. But we believe it is the government's responsibility to bring justice to the victims and their families."
—John Concepcion, spokesperson of Karapatan-Bikol, on the killings of unarmed militants

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Eco programs should not rely on foreign funding

THE DISMAL STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE environment today can be traced to the half-hearted concern of both government and people. Except for a few committed individuals and organizations, there is virtually no culture of long-term preparedness for environmental disasters. Hence, the impact of catastrophes is getting worse, even unmanageable, from year to year.

Here, as in other aspects of governance, the vision span of our national leaders hardly goes beyond their term of office. Every administration treats every disaster as a chronic accident deserving dramatic attention only while it lasts.

The Philippine Agenda 21, a hand-down program from the UNCED (UN Conference for Environment and Development-Rio de Janeiro 1992) and adopted by the Philippines in 1996, provides a general framework for environmental protection and development. Spearheaded by the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development, which is attached to the National Economic and Development Authority, PA 21 identifies some regions as heavily degraded and lays the groundwork for systematic environmental planning and implementation. Some local government units have turned out to be not only cooperative but also outstanding in their participation.

The program, however suffers from a weakness inherent in foreign-funded projects. Its sustainability blows hot and cold, depending on the availability of funds. Even participating NGOs also depend on foreign funding. Thus, while the program as planned is sustainable, its implementation is not.

We cannot and should not rely on other countries to care for our environment.

If President Macapagal-Arroyo can dish out a total of P2 billion more for the government's war on terrorism and corruption, why can't she set aside P2 billion a year for environmental protection and development?

Time is fast running out on us.

—EVA M. INCIONG,
chair,
Rizpec Foundation
for Sustainable Development,
Rm. 301 Union Square Condo,
145 15th Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Guimaras GMA saw but didn't feel

AFTER AN OVERNIGHT STAY IN A resort in Guimaras, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared that one part of Guimaras is still beautiful. And this is true.

But the fact is, the whole of Guimaras was once beautiful. Unfortunately, government was asleep when a ship captain with an expired license ventured to sail a single-hulled tanker loaded with 2 million liters of bunker fuel. It continued to sleep for about two more weeks even after the news about the oil spill was all over print and broadcast media. It woke up late to create a task force. When finally it was up and about, its President and her minions readily moved on to enjoy Guimaras' beauty.

How I wished somebody had put hundreds of open one-gallon paint cans filled with gasoline around the beds of the President and her entourage while they were sleeping there; in their bathrooms and dressing rooms; in the dining room when they were taking their first cup of tea or coffee and their breakfast; and everywhere they went, so that they could have at least felt even just a little of what half of the Guimaras population is now going through because of the "Solar oil spill."

Now they have seen with their own eyes all the "blessings" that Petron and Sunshine Marketing Development Corp. (SMDC), owner of the sunken MT Solar I, have gifted Guimaras with—oil, precious oil, delivered in limitless abundance to thousands of families on the island, at no cost to them, even VAT-free.

How I wished, GMA and her entourage, as well as the top executives of Petron and SMDC had, even just for a day, gone through what every man, woman and child in the other half of Guimaras have been putting up with for more than two weeks now.

—LUISA POSA,
mlpd@skyinet.net

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SHAKE REDUCTION

ConCom member opposing Cha-cha a distinguished UP, Ateneo professor

AS RECENT AS A YEAR AGO, PERHAPS months ago, even weeks ago, the proposal for Charter change through a constituent assembly was considered a done deal. Now, opinions are mixed. There appears to be an increasing number of converts who at one time supported a change in the present form of government.

A few of those pushing for Cha-cha want it sometime in the future, not immediately. In fact, there appears to be an increasing number of Filipinos—according to recent Pulse Asia surveys—who do not see the need for Cha-cha now or at any other time in the future. Why is that? Simply because more and more people are listening to the likes of one Rene Azurin.

Azurin is without question one of the most distinguished professors ever to have taught at the University of the Philippines and Ateneo. He teaches Strategic Management. He was also a dissenting minority member of the now defunct Consultative Commission. Azurin, who favors the presidential system, was vice chair of the ConCom committee on the form of government.

Azurin is a scrupulous scholar and a vigorous voice for the "No to Parliament Movement." When you get a chance, you may want to visit his website: http://www.notoparliament.net

The NO! TO PARLIAMENT Movement opposes the move to change the US-style presidential form of government to the UK-style parliamentary form of government. It considers such a change a completely inappropriate and illogical response to the country's political and economic realities.

Reading a few of Azurin's work and writings on the subject, one cannot help but be impressed that he approaches each legal, economic and political question without pre-judgment or hidden agenda. He wants to get it right, every time. Decades of students remember his elegant lectures, his challenging Socratic dialogue. To innumerable past students, Azurin defined the excitement and intellectual challenge of the UP Business, Economics and Management classroom.

A superb teacher and scholar, Azurin brought his mastery of complex and sophisticated material to the classroom, carefully leading his students through the most difficult areas of strategy, planning, management and always challenging them to push themselves beyond their comfort levels to deeper understanding of the subtleties and nuances of the subject matter. This demeanor manifested itself during sessions of the Consultative Commission.

Many of Azurin's former students are now journalists, judges, lawyers, physicians, stockbrokers and even professors. The world is much better because of him.

—BUNNY ARVILLE,
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA,

Veggies, not dogs enhance skin health

LET'S FACE IT: THE IDEA THAT EATING DOG meat is good for one's skin is a case of superstition passing itself off as a science of healing. ("Nokor women think dog meat good for skin," PDI, 8/10/06)

Eating veggies is the answer to having clear skin with a clear conscience. Studies have shown that eating vitamin-rich veggies like carrots, cucumbers, broccoli, celery, cabbage, green peppers, sprouts and watercress every day enhances the skin's health, reduces acne and repairs damaged skin. Besides, there's nothing "sweet" about eating dog meat. The only difference between the dog you eat and the dog you keep is the way you treat them.

No dog deserves to be turned into dinner, so the next time you have a breakout, forget a bowl of *boshintang*—tuck into a salad instead. It will not only nourish your skin, but it will also nourish your soul, knowing that you're sparing "man's best friend" from unimaginable pain and suffering.

—SONIA ASTUDILLO,
People for the Ethical Treatment
of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific,
SoniaA@petaasiapacific.org

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Bayanihan dance troupe: prestigious or spoiled?

THIS IS TO COMMEND THE INQUIRER FOR publishing, last Aug. 19, Christine Godinez-Ortega's news story on the Bayanihan dance troupe.

More than anything else, Ortega's report was a scathing criticism of the troupe's established manner of presenting indigenous dances. The numerous laments (like bastardization, commercialism, artistic irresponsibility, lack of research, misrepresentation, stylization without knowing the basis or "roots" of specific dances, "royal" dance, etc.) are justified and sounded familiar to me.

I have said and written the same laments even after and before my lecture to an SRO audience in the UE Theater on Sept. 28, 1977, at a special convocation during the 31st Foundation Anniversary celebration of the University of the East, Manila. No less than Sen. Helena Benitez was a special guest of then UE AVP for academic affairs, Dr. Antonio Isidro, the first president of the Mindanao State University. At that time, mine was like a voice in the wilderness.

Today, I feel some consolation that my work has influenced others, including Steven Patrick Fernandez and artists outside the Minsupala (Mindanao, the Sulu Archipelago, Palawan) region. I congratulate them for insisting on the need to protect the birthright of the cultural communities and indigenous peoples, who deserve to be treated as compatriots, not as some sort of exotica in the repertoire of even the most prestigious or spoiled dance company in the Philippines.

—LIGAYA FERNANDO-AMILBANGSA,
artistic director,
AlunAlun Dance Circle,
13 JP Rizal St., Calumpang, Marikina City

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BCDA head orders probe of 'commission'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY president Narciso Abaya said his agency would investigate claims of Central Luzon contractors that they paid between P1 million and P5 million to a BCDA official in exchange for non-existent subcontracts in the P21 billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway project (SCTEP).

Abaya, in a statement on Wednesday, urged contractors belonging to the Concerned Central Luzon Contractors (CCLC) to file formal complaints against the BCDA official, who was identified as BCDA director Rex Chan.

"We will open up an investigation into the allegations if the complainants will come forward and execute sworn statements. This is the only way to determine whether, indeed, there were irregularities in connection with the project," he said.

Abaya said he would gather representatives of the National Contractors Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Contractors Association and the Japanese consortiums in charge of the project's civil works in a meeting "to find out the truth."

'Let the axe fall'

"We will let the axe fall where it should," he said.

Abaya said he had heard similar reports in the past but he could not make any independent verification since there were no formal complaints filed.

Sources in the construction industry and a former bases official identified the official allegedly involved in the anomaly as Chan.

Chan, in a text message he sent the INQUIRER on Wednesday, said he has the right to confront his accusers.

"I am not surprised there are complainants because in my work, when I please one, I displease so many," he said.

"My conscience is clean. But I just hope reason and fairness will prevail," he added.

Chan earlier denied the charges, saying his accusers were trying to malign him and wanted him out of BCDA.

Abaya assured all concerned of "full transparency in any investigation."

"However, we must avoid witch-hunting and observe due process," he said.

Flagship project

"We have endeavored hard to keep the SCTEP above board because this is a very important flagship project of the government, and we are still on track to finish the project by the end of 2007," Abaya said.

He said BCDA would endorse to the proper courts the findings of any irregularity, noting that BCDA "will never tolerate illegal activities."

In his statement, Abaya said he has "caused the transfer away from the project of some BCDA personnel who have similary been accused of wrongdoings while investigations were ongoing."

A Palace source, privy to the payment of what has come to be known among contractors as "shortlist fee," said one of these officials was Alexander Solomon, who was "sent to the freezer."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has identified the SCTEP as one of her administration's flagship projects.

It seeks to connect Subic in Zambales to Clark in Pampanga and reduce land travel time between the two former US military bases.

It was also seen as catalyst for the growth of Central Luzon with a major seaport based in Subic and an airport big enough for the latest aircraft in Clark.

Farmers vow not to drop fight for coco levy

LUCENA CITY—THE PAMbansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pakisama), a nationwide organization of coconut farmers, vowed to continue the long and hard struggle to reclaim the multibillion-peso coconut levy fund and expressed vehement opposition to the government's proposed compromise agreement to settle the issue.

"Pakisama's struggle has already reached more than two decades. All favorable court decisions to the coconut workers will boil down to nothing and will be wasted if the coco levy funds will be compromised by the government," Rene Cerilla, Pakisama president, said in an interview here.

Cerilla added that most of the old contributors to the levy are now sick and dying and "still remain poor as ever."

"But we will keep the flame of struggle burning," he said.

Camilo Sabio, Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) chair, has been pushing to start negotiations with the camp of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco on a possible compromise deal to settle the 18-year-old coconut levy dispute.

To be covered by the compromise negotiation is the sequestered 27-percent San Miguel Corp. shares that were supposedly originally purchased through the coconut levy funds.

"We strongly oppose the pre-arranged compromise deal being worked out by the PCGG and Danding's camp as a means for recovering the coco levy funds. We strongly demand the execution of Supreme Court and Sandiganbayan decisions for the interest of coconut workers and for the development of the coconut industry," Cerilla said.

On Dec. 14, 2001, the Supreme Court ruled that the coconut levy funds were public funds but left it to the Sandiganbayan to decide who own the assets acquired with the funds.

Sandiganbayan, in a decision issued in May 2004, also held that the 27-percent shareholding in the SMC, originally acquired through the coconut levy funds, was owned by coconut farmers, held in trust by the government for the benefit of the farmers and the coconut industry. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

6 drown in flooding in Cebu City village

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—SIX PERSONS, INcluding a woman and her three children, . died yesterday after their house was filled with floodwater following the collapse of their house's wall in Sindulan, Mabolo, Cebu City.

The fatalities were identified as Prescilla Balagapo, 35, a part-time teacher of a care-giving center; her 3-year-old son Alfredo III; her two daughters, Frella Ann, 7 and Fritzie Joyce, 6; Abigail Familara, 24, who is the niece of Priscilla's husband; and their helper, identified as Elsa Gocela, of San Isidro, Leyte.

Prescilla's husband, Alfredo Jr., who hails from Novaliches, Quezon City, was in Tagbilaran City, Bohol when the tragedy occurred.

In an interview, he said he went to Tagbilaran as an agent of Cebu-based Asia Pacific Tuna.

Mabolo barangay councilor Reynaldo Ompoc said the victims were sleeping at the ground floor of the house they were renting when the flood as deep as six feet entered their rooms.

The mother and her three children were sleeping in a bigger room while Familara and Gocela slept in separate rooms.

Ompoc said a certain Toto Young, who occupied the upper floor of the house, called the barangay hall at 8 a.m. to inform them a flash flood had destroyed the concrete fence of a house near the river and reportedly owned by a certain Fatima Dolotina.

The floodwater also destroyed a concrete fence, which separated the house of Dolotina and the one occupied by the Balagapo family.

Ompoc said the concrete fence fell on the main door of the house, and then water filled the ground floor occupied by the family.

While the cause of death still has to be determined, Alfredo Jr. said he believed the six drowned.

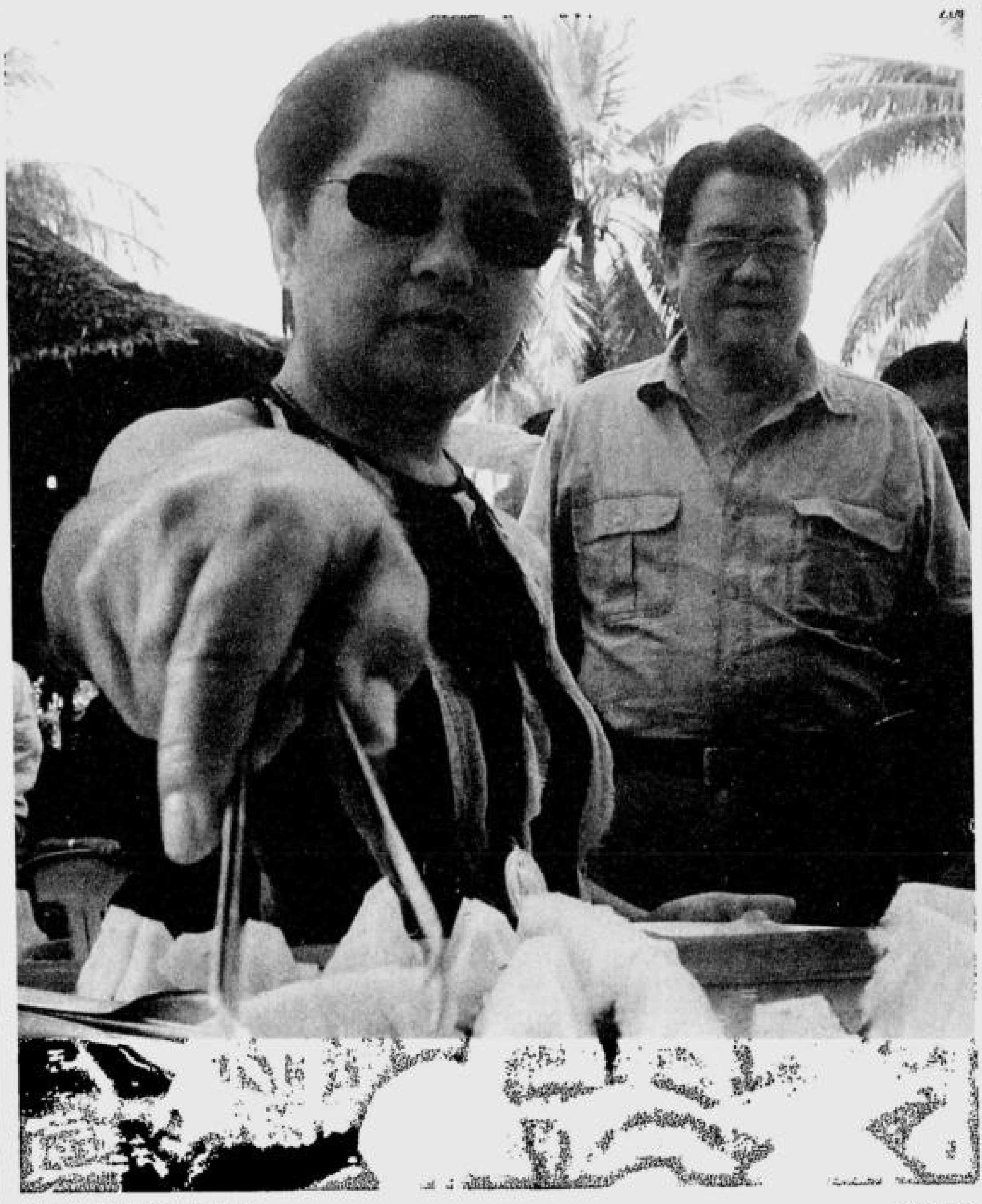
But Ompoc said the victims, who were all raising their hands when their bodies were found, could have been electrocuted, according to Ompoc.

Mayor Tomas Osmeña immediately inspected the area to find out if someone should be blamed for the tragedy.

Councilor Gerardo Carillo, chair of the committee on social services, said there must be an investigation to find out if the fence beside the river was constructed legally.

Carillo also said the city government will extend financial assistance of P10,000 per victim.

Familara's remains will be flown to Zamboanga while that of Gocela will be brought to her hometown San Isidro, Leyte.



GOING BANANAS

LYN RILLON

President Macapagal-Arroyo appears now to be choosy in what food to eat as she carefully picks a banana during a visit to Guimaras to personally see the extent of the oil spill that wreaked havoc on the province's marine resources.

Baguio mayor leaves city hall; vice mayor takes over

BAGUIO CITY—THE DEPARTment of Interior and Local Government enforced the yearlong suspension of Mayor Braulio Yaranon on Wednesday, and installed Vice Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. in an acting capacity.

Yaranon said he would ask the Court of Appeals to review the Malacañang decision, which penalized him for encouraging motorists to disregard the authority of a pay parking firm here.

His lawyers said they might also seek an injunction.

The 78-year-old Yaranon had refused to relinquish his seat last month when Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita first issued his suspension until he could appeal his case. Malacañang dismissed his appeal.

On Monday, Yaranon had endorsed Bautista to city employees when he bade them goodbye.

The turnover of the city's leadership has opened another legal issue after Bautista asked the mayor's political appointees and aides to file their courtesy resignations to allow him to install his own set of appointees.

But Jose Dacawi, chief of the city personnel office, said the Local Government Code does not cover Yaranon's case.

Dacawi said the code specifies the appointive powers granted to any official who succeeds a mayor or removed from office.

While Yaranon was not terminated from office, Dacawi said the suspension would end in June 2007, which is the end of the mayor's term.

Dacawi said this is the reason some city officials believe city administrator Peter Fianza and Yaranon's close aides like his secretary, Conrado Bueno, have to also leave their posts.

Dacawi asked Fianza and Yaranon's staff members to wait for 30 days before they resign. That is the prescriptive period granted to them by the Local Government Code in cases where a mayor is incapacitated, and must relinquish his position to a successor.

"What if the court grants an injunction? Does that mean Yaranon comes back with his appointees and he will have to drive away the people Bautista installed? Of course not. Let them wait," Dacawi said.

Everdina Doctor, DILG Cordillera director, said Yaranon's petition before the CA could still determine the status of his political appointees, who were confirmed by the city council.

Doctor said only Yaranon's personal staff, including his secretary, would have to resign because they deal with the mayor's confidential communication. *Vincent Cabreza and Donna Demetillo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Tension grips town as mayor defies suspension

STA. ROSA CITY—POLITICAL tension is gripping this city after Sta. Rosa Mayor Joey Catindig slammed Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno's decision to suspend him for a year and stressed that he was still the "legitimate mayor" of the city.

In an interview at his office yesterday, Catindig belied reports that he was leaving his office because Puno's decision to suspend him was just "recommendatory in nature."

He said Puno's verdict was "unfair to a city mayor who merely wants dynamic and efficient city department heads to assist him in extending effective service to his constituents."

"I think Secretary Puno erred when he said I am suspended because the ruling was not yet final and executory. I have already appealed my case to the (Office of the President)," Catindig told the INQUIRER.

He said he has yet to receive a copy of the ruling of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) on the separate cases filed against him by city environment officer Erlinda Creencia and city accountant Nelia Carvajal.

Puno suspended Catindig for six months on each case after the DILG found him guilty of the violation of the Constitution, abuse of authority, oppression and grave misconduct.

The cases stemmed from Catindig's decision to remove Creencia and Carvajal from their posts last year.

Both were closely identified with Catindig's political rival, Vice Mayor Arlene Arcillas-Nazareno, daughter of slain Mayor Leon Arcillas.

A day after Puno's pronouncement of Catindig's suspension, followers of Nazareno went around the city and announced that the vice mayor is the new mayor of Sta. Rosa.

Catindig said the incident only proved that his impending suspension was "politically motivated to discredit me." *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

N. Ecija town holds 'hugas-kalawang' fest

TALAVERA, NUEVA ECIJA—Farmers and rice planters here took center stage on Tuesday in a day-long "Hugas-Kalawang Festival" that revived an almost forgotten tradition in farming communities in Nueva Ecija.

"This tradition must not be forgotten. It is a way of giving thanks and recognition to our farmers who prepare the field and the planters who plant the rice," Mayor Nerito Santos said.

Santos said without their contribution to these important aspects in rice culture, there would be no rice that would feed the nation.

"Hugas-Kalawang," he said, meant "washing off of the rust" from farming tools and garments of farmers and rice planters.

"This is a tradition in Nueva Ecija which is rooted in *bayanihan* (cooperation) in so far as the first phase of rice growing is concerned," said Nina Wy-Ting, the festival's executive committee chair.

"Residents in a farming community join forces in preparing the field and planting it to rice in the spirit of helping one another," she said.

Wy-Ting said it was customary then for participants in rice-planting activities to hold competitions such as finding the fastest planter and the group that proves to be the best in planting in unison.

Rice planting in the province also features singers and guitarists to entertain planters. It is also an occasion for the men to make their romantic feelings known (*palipad-hangin*) to the women they desire, Wy-Ting said.

After rice planting, farmers proceed to wash off the rust on their plows and harrows and the rice planters on their leggings. They keep their implements and their garments to be taken out for the following year's planting season, she said.

"Then the *hugas-kalawang* festivities follow," she said. "They were meant to give thanks to the Lord and to the farmers and rice planters for another completed rice-planting activity."

Although times and practices have changed in so far as field preparations and rice planting are concerned, Santos said the "*hugas-kalawang* tradition" should not be forgotten.

He said the local government would allot P1 million to finance livelihood projects of rice planters here.

During Tuesday's festivities here, the farmers and rice planters participated in a two-hour long parade. Later, they gathered at a gymnasium for various competitions, the highlight of which was the contest for the best rice planter. *Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon*

MILF demands release of 3 suspected terrorists

SULTAN KUDARAT, MAGUINDANAO—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday demanded the release of the three suspected bombers who were arrested on Sunday while trying to board a ship for Manila.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, said the arrest of the suspects—one of them a regular MILF member—was staged.

"It was part of the military and police propaganda," he said.

Iqbal said the military and the police later issued statements that have dragged the MILF into the supposed terror plot hatched by the Jemaah Islamiyah.

The plot was supposed to be part of attacks that would culminate on Sept. 11, the day when terrorists struck in the United States.

Frame up

Von al-Haq, chair of the MILF's ceasefire committee, said Sammy Gampong and the two other suspects, who were civilians, have been framed up.

"We have witnesses who can testify that the three men were framed up by the military and the police," Al Haq said.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson for the military's 6th Infantry Division, said Gampong, Razak Macarimbang and Wahab Sandigan, all of Matanog, Maguindanao, were arrested as they were boarding the SuperFerry vessel for Manila around 2 p.m. on Sunday.

He said the three yielded two improvised explosives when frisked.

But Al-Haq said the bombs that Ando alleged were seized from the three men were planted. He said because of this, the MILF has lodged a protest before the peace panels.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police chief, welcomed the MILF's action but denied the suspects were framed up.

Bomb parts

"They were not framed up. Actually, when they entered the SuperFerry, there were bomb components found in their bags," Goltiao said. He did not say what the components were.

Goltiao said that during interrogation, the three suspects, who are all MILF members, admitted they were paid to carry out fresh attacks in Manila.

Jesus Dureza, presidential peace adviser, told the INQUIRER by phone that the release of the suspects would depend on the final report of the ceasefire committee.

"Let's leave that to members of government ceasefire committee which is looking into their demand. The release will depend on the result of the investigation," he said.

Dureza said he was confident the issue will not affect the peace negotiations.

The peace talks, which were aimed at ending the decades-old Moro rebellion, recently hit a snag due to the issue of territories.

The peace talks, supported by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, were expected to resume anytime in Kuala Lumpur. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Villagers told: Don't give 'butanding' stress

LEGAZPI CITY—THE MAYOR OF this city asked residents of a village here to keep whale sharks coming by "not giving them stress."

"You may enjoy the sightings of 'butanding' or whale sharks but avoid giving them stress," Mayor Noel Rosal told villagers of Barangay Bigaa, which has been frequented by the gentle creatures for more than a week now.

To orient villagers on how to deal with the whale sharks, Rosal invited Jo Roco, a science research specialist of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Allan Amanse, 38, a butanding interaction officer (BIO) from Donsol, Sorsogon.

In an assembly Tuesday at the Bantay Dagat Hall that faces the shore, Roco talked to about 50 villagers, mostly fishermen, about the nature of the butanding.

"I need your cooperation in taking care of this creature so it would stay in our seas," Roco said.

Butandings come closer to shore in Bigaa, than in Donsol where tourists have to hire boats to get closer looks at the whale sharks.

Rosal asked villagers to keep their surroundings clean and avoid throwing garbage into the sea.

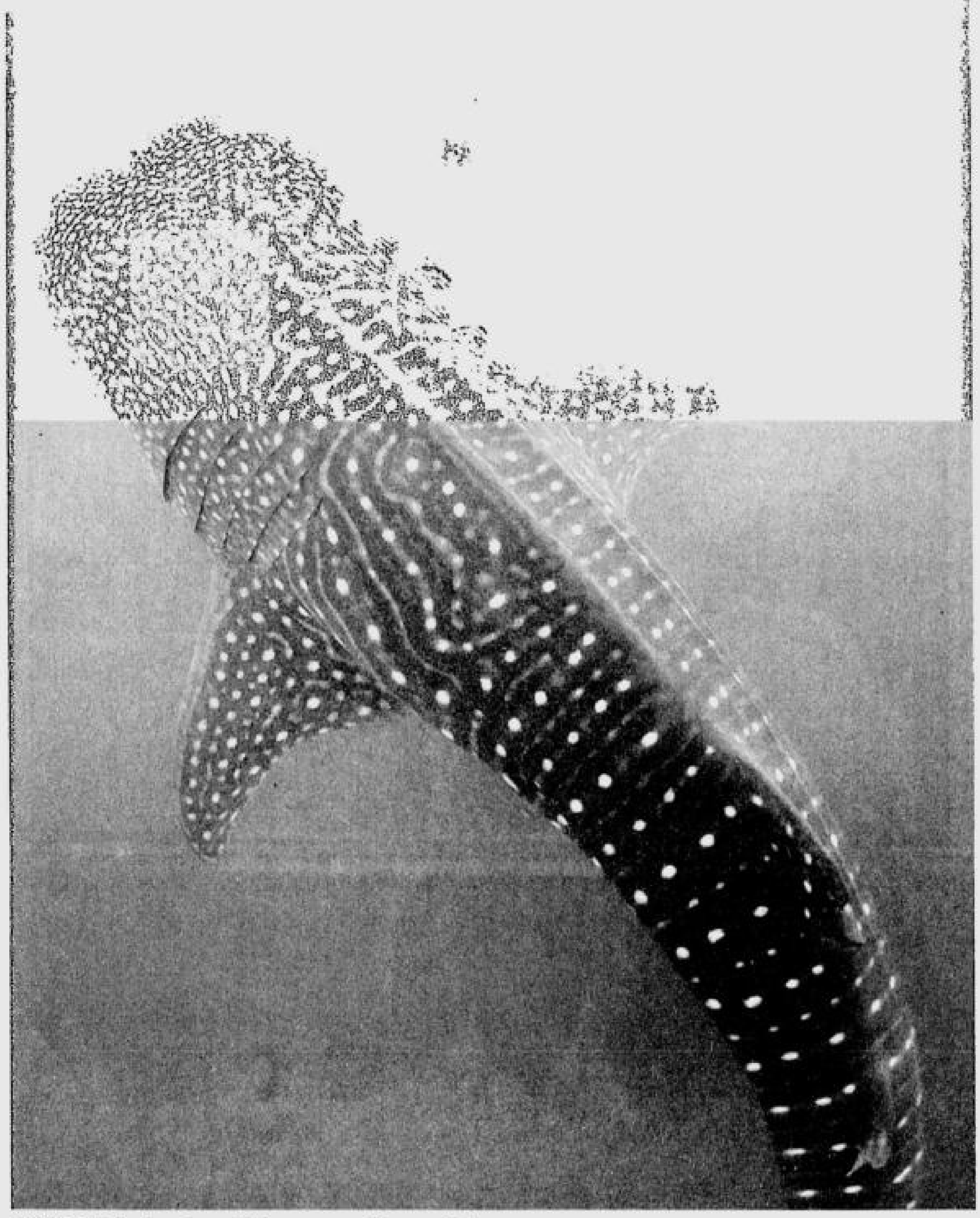
He said rivers should also be kept clean because this was where planktons, the butandings' food, come from.

Roco said butandings come when the waters are calm.

Vicente Alpajero, 64, a village councilor, said the butandings stay on the shore because of the food.

"Only when these creatures saunter or wander in the seas do neighboring barangays get to see them," he said.

Omar Nepumoceno, 35, a pioneer BIO in Donsol, is enthusiastic about the prospect of the butandings making their presence felt in Bicol's coastal waters on a year-round basis. *Joanna Los Baños, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



A WHALE shark swims off the waters of Legazpi City. PHOTO FROM GREENPEACE

Aurora mayor defies suspension order

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—FOR almost a month now, Mayor Marilyn Marquez of Dinalungan, Aurora, has continued to defy a 60-day preventive suspension over a road user's fee ordinance.

She remained camped inside her office for what she called a fight for the rule of law and environment.

"*Hindi ako bumababa* (I have not stepped down)," Marquez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Tuesday.

She said the decision of the provincial board and Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo to suspend her and Vice Mayor Virgie Vallejo following the filing of an administrative complaint by the Industries Development Corp. (IDC), a logging firm, was "very erroneous."

For one, she said, Resolution No. 73, which recommended the suspension on July 18, referred to Ordinance No. 2004-017 which is about coastal resources management. The local law on road user's fee is contained in Ordinance No. 2004-019, she said.

The board, she said, should not find fault in her and Vallejo for not furnishing a copy of the ordinance. That, she said, was the job of the town council's secretary.

She said the ordinance should also have been questioned by the IDC in court, not before the board.

Michael Ong, IDC vice president, said the company filed a criminal case against Marquez at the Office of the Ombudsman.

"The board rushed. It took them only five days [to decide]," Marquez said.

She said the "pre-requisite of having a strong evidence of guilt has not been met because the board did not study the case well."

Marquez and Vallejo filed a motion to dismiss Resolution No. 73 on Aug. 7, saying the Ombudsman had jurisdiction of the case because that was where it was filed first on May 9.

Marquez said the ordinance covered a municipal road and the local government has authority to collect charges to maintain that public infrastructure.

"Every week, five to eight trucks of IDC loaded with timber pass through that road. We've been charging P100 for every loaded truck and every collection is duly covered by receipts. We have collected P50,000. We plan to use the money to buy a land to expand a narrow road that is accident-prone," she said.

The bottom line, according to Marquez, was the IDC was getting back at her for her antilogging and antimining campaign.

"I am supported by the people," she said.

ROUNDUP

ARMM teachers get pay

HAY SALAMAT!
ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

COTABATO CITY—The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has started distributing the salaries of close to 20,000 public school teachers amounting to over P190 million, which represents the unpaid salaries of "provisional and permanent teachers in the secondary and elementary levels" for September, 2005. Executive Secretary Oscar Sampulna blamed the nonpayment of salaries on past ARMM administrations. He said Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan had lobbied for the funds and had ordered regional officials to make sure that the problem would not be repeated.
Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

I dead in Davao floods

DIGOS CITY—A person drowned while 74 houses were damaged when floodwaters submerged at least six villages in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, following heavy rains on Saturday. The Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council (MDCC) identified the fatality as Jimmy Languban. It said debris brought by erosion had clogged creeks and rivers. Provincial information chief Marivic Hubac said food assistance had been extended to about 700 affected families. The local social welfare and development office had already inspected the areas to determine the extent of damage. Gov. Benjamin Bautista Jr. ordered the provincial engineering office to dispatch heavy equipment to assist the local government in cleaning creeks and rivers.
Eldie S. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

Free calls for Albay folk

LEGAZPI CITY—Retired Police Director General Arturo C. Lomibao has launched a free calling station at the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council office in Old Albay District here for the use of residents who have relatives abroad. A project of the Rotary Club of Quezon City, of which Lomibao is the president, the calling station allows the residents to contact their relatives for free, especially at this time of Mayon volcano's abnormal behavior. The station reaches 31 countries, including Australia, England, France, Germany, Israel, Norway, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, the Vatican City and Wales. Mobile phone calls are also available for Canada, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States.
Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

DENR workers hurt in mishap

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—Six workers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources suffered injuries when their vehicle rammed a tree at Km 5 in Barangay Luna here, after they monitored the implementation of the Green Philippine Highways project on Friday. Police said among the victims was Francisco Sacro, administrative officer of the community environment and natural resources office in Surigao City. Benjamin Tumaliuan, Caraga environment director, said Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes had directed him to attend to the needs of the injured personnel.
Chris V. Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao

Getting ready for oil spill

BATANGAS CITY—In the wake of the MV Solar I oil spill in Guimaras, Iloilo, and the MV Billy Star sulfuric acid spills in Bauan town, Batangas, the provincial government has recommended to the Batangas Bay Regional Environmental Protection Council to adopt an existing integrated contingency response mechanism and environmental guarantee trust fund to ensure the protection of Batangas' coastal waters. Warning that typhoons alone could scatter oil spills to nearby coasts, Lanrico Dalida, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration meteorologist, stressed the need to treat oil spills immediately before such calamities occur. Dalida recognized the need for government officials to be aware of existing weather conditions in the area after the spill.
Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon

DENR to stop fish cage operations in Subic

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE operations of at least five fish cages built within 22 hectares of the municipal waters in Subic, Zambales, will be stopped this week, the chief of the Environmental Management Bureau here said.

Lormelyn Claudio, EMB director in Central Luzon, said the five operators did not secure environmental compliance certificates (ECCs).

The status of six other operators will be decided by the outcome of coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, she said.

The 11 operators maintained 171 fish cages in the waters of Sitio Mapang-eb in Barangay Cawag. Six of the operators have obtained only municipal resolutions, or permits, from the barangay or mayor since 2004. The rest have operated without local permits, an EMB document showed.

"Our legal division has prepared the cease-and-desist orders as clamored by the multi-partite monitoring team (MMT), the Subic Bay Resort Association (Subra) and Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain and as verified by our field staff," Claudio said.

In June, the Samahang Pinagkaisa sa Pangisdaan (Sapsap) blamed pollution from those fish cages as the cause of fish kills that averaged 100 kg of *bangus* (milkfish) daily in the last week of that month.

The EMB's investigation of the proliferation of the fish cages in Subic began in July 2005 on the heels of a complaint by Carlos Rodriguez to then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor.

As early as then, EMB investigator Emerita Sebial noted the lack of ECCs and permit from the BFAR. Payment of fines and issuance of notice of violations were recommended then. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

6 Inquirer correspondents elected to NUJP board

By Leti Boniol

SIX INQUIRER CORRESPONDENTS were among 15 members elected to the directorate of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) during its 5th Congress held in Tagaytay City Sunday and Monday.

Grace Albasin, INQUIRER's Cagayan de Oro correspondent; Nestor Burgos, Jr. Iloilo correspondent; Ansbert Joaquin, Olongapo; Bobby Labalan, Sorsogon; Diosa Labiste, Iloilo; and Marlon Ramos, Laguna were elected by national council members composed of 27 voting delegates from 27 chapters all over the country.

Elected chair was Jose Torres Jr. of GMAnews.tv. Vice chair is Sonny Fernandez of ABC-5; secretary general is Rowena Paraan, coordinator of the International Federation of Journalists-NUJP safety office, according to a news release.

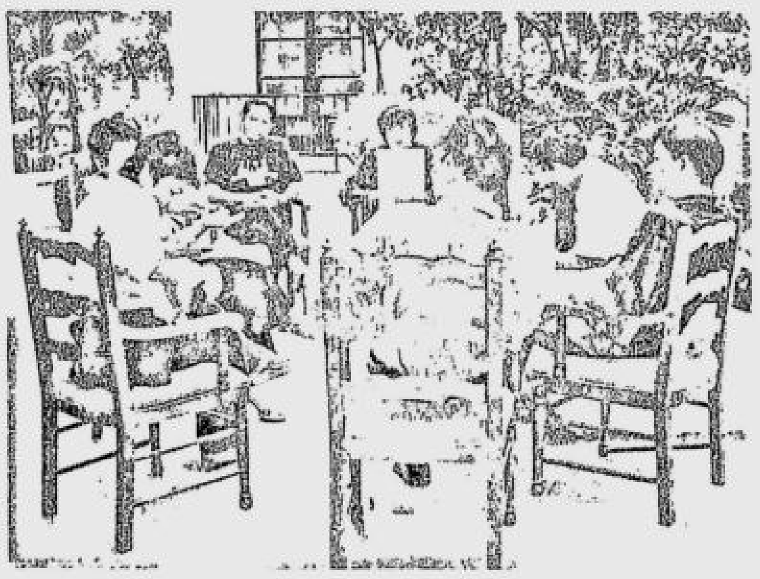
Deputy secretary general is Jaime Espina of INQ7.net, treasurer is freelance journalist May Rodriguez, and auditor is Artemio Dumlao Jr. of the Philippine Star.

The other national directorate members are Inday Espina-Varona, Philippine Graphic; Rommel Rebollido, the Philippine Star and NUJP-General Santos City; and Maureen Japzon, Eastern Times and NUJP-Tacloban.

The NUJP, which has been campaigning for press freedom and the safety of journalists, was asked by congress delegates to look into the possibility of negotiating a better compensation package for correspondents and stringers of national news outfits.

It will also lobby with Congress for the passage of a freedom of information act to ensure journalists' access to government documents "vital to the practice of their profession and in pursuit of the public interest," the strengthening of laws protecting the relationship between reporters and their sources, and the scrapping of proposed measures that threaten freedom of the press and of expression, most notably the antiterrorism bill.

The NUJP will also work to establish an awards system honoring journalists for ethical practice and convince news outfits to observe the principle of presumption of innocence by stopping the practice of publicly presenting suspects until a case is properly filed in court.



MEMBERS of the NUJP discuss ways to improve their situation during workshops held at the organization's 5th Congress in Tagaytay City. LETI BONIOL

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DARAGANG MAGAYON

Woman victim or warrior?

By Ephraim Aguilar
Legazpi City

BEHIND MT. MAYON, RISING 2,462 meters above Bicol, is a legend telling people that at the core of this magnificent and world-famous volcano, which has been restless since 1999, is the heart of a woman longing to be free.

Mayon was derived from the Bicol word *magayon*, which means "beautiful," and was used to name one of the most active volcanoes in the country and one of the natural wonders of the world for its near-perfect cone shape.

According to folklore, Daragang Magayon (Beautiful Maiden), the only daughter of tribal chief Makusog (Strong), grew up to be so beautiful and lovely that men from other tribes vied for her affection.

But she was indifferent to all her suitors. Not even Datu Pagtuga (Eruption), a powerful chief and great hunter, could win her heart even if he showered her father with gifts.

One day, Ulap (Cloud) came after a long walk to see for himself the celebrated beauty of the maiden. Unlike other suitors, Ulap waited patiently until love blossomed between them.

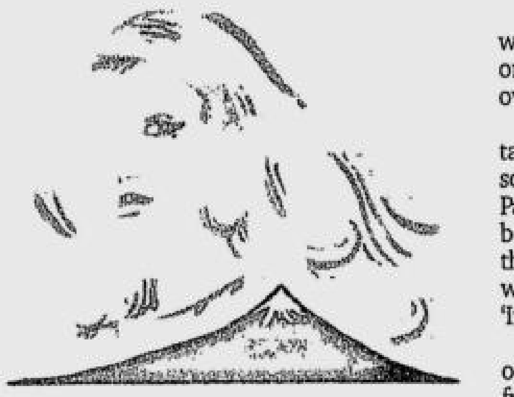
Sensing that his daughter was in love, Makusog did not object to the betrothal and asked his people to prepare a wedding feast.

The news enraged Pagtuga, who abducted Makusog and sent word to Magayon that unless she married him, her beloved father would die and that war would be waged against her tribe.

Magayon could not do anything but give in to Pagtuga's demand.

Informed about the unhappy turn of events, Ulap, along with his warriors, arrived in time for the wedding rites and killed Pagtuga.

This was not the tale's happy ending, though. As Magayon rushed to embrace Ulap, she was hit by an arrow and fell in Ulap's arms. A follower of Pagtuga hurled a spear at Ulap's back, killing him instantly.



The tragic lovers were buried in one grave which, as time passed, was transformed into a hill. Rumblings, quakes and huge boulders sprouted from the top of what is now Mt. Mayon.

Dr. Juliet Borres, a literature professor and assistant dean at the Bicol University College of Arts and Letters, said folk legends were created by early natives to explain phenomena around them.

The story of Daragang Magayon has different versions, but in each of them, she always died—from an arrow aimed at her or her lover.

According to Borres, the story portrays how women were treated in ancient times—like those of the lower class—their lives determined by men around them and without freedom to speak for themselves.

In the early 1990s, a significant twist in the myth arose after Bicolana poet Merlinda Bobis redefined the character of Daragang Magayon, from being a victim to a woman who bravely battled against oppression. She was transformed into a woman guerrilla.

Bobis has received various prestigious awards, such as the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature in 1987 and 1989, and the Gawad Cultural Center of the Philippines for Literature in 1990.

In her graduate thesis that analyzed Bobis' Bicol epic "Cantata of the Warrior Woman Daragang Magayon," Borres stated that in the early part of the narrative, Magayon was presented as well-loved, pampered and adored by people around her.

She was a typical girl who feared blood, was weak and vulnerable. She suffered rejection not only by other people in the tribe but also by her own father.

"The elders in their tribe, who took advantage of the weakness of her aging father Makusog, planned that Magayon be forced to marry Pagtuga as more of a political strategy for the benefit of the tribe. When Magayon learned of that, she decided to transform herself into a warrior to the delight of his father who told her, 'Indeed you are of my own blood,' " Borres said.

Unlike in the traditional legend where Magayon decided to marry Pagtuga in exchange for the freedom of her father, in Bobis' version, she asked for guidance from the goddess Maguindara.

"The women in the tribe did not want Magayon to marry Pagtuga because they thought he was an enemy, a symbol of oppression against women during their time. When Magayon inquired from Maguindara, she answered her question with another question: *'Anong sira an dai nagsasabat sa sulong* (What is the fish that doesn't go against the current)? Magayon knew the answer, *'Tigbak na sira'* (Dead fish)," Borres said.

"What Magayon is trying to portray in her character redefined by Bobis is that, 'I am not just beautiful. I am not just a weak and typical princess but I am more than that,' " she added.

The maiden decided to fight for her father's freedom. as well as her freedom to love. She was no longer a victim who depended on her tribesmen and Ulap to be rescued.

"In the end of the epic though, it was implied that both Magayon and Ulap died in the battle. But Magayon here died in unsurrendered struggle. She was fighting till the end," said Borres.

Mayon Volcano has been on a "mild and quiet" eruption for more than a month now, keeping nearly 40,000 villagers confined in government-run shelters away from its shadow.

Knowing the behavior of Mayon now, Borres remembered what Bobis said: "Just like Daragang Magayon, she appears to be gloriously beautiful, calm, and placid but when you listen closely, you will hear murmurs of stories untold about her endless struggle."

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.:

Please be advised that SM Investments Corporation, in consortium with Shoemart, Inc., Multi-Realty Development Corporation, Sysmart Corp., Syntrix Holdings, Inc., and Sybase Equity Investments Corp. (collectively, the "Bidder") has filed a Tender Offer Report in SEC Form 19-1 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") and the Philippines Stock Exchange (the "PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in connection with its intention to acquire all of the 318,680,000 outstanding common shares (the "Shares") of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. ("EPCIB").

The Bidder has commenced a negotiated sale over 78,807,098 Shares (equivalent to 10.84%) owned by EBC Investments, Inc. which shall be purchased under the same terms as the Tender Offer. Additionally, the Bidder, its affiliates and related interests presently own 34% of the Shares. Consequently, the subject of this Tender Offer is 401,015,110 Shares representing 55.16% of the Shares.

The offer price for the acquisition of the Shares is P92.00 per share or a total consideration of P36,893,390,120.00 and will be payable in accordance with the terms of payment indicated in the Terms of the Tender Offer. The Consideration shall be payable as follows: ten percent (10%) on Settlement Date or on October 2, 2006, ten percent (10%) on June 2, 2007, ten percent (10%) on February 2, 2008, the remaining balance to be paid on October 2, 2008. Should any of the payment dates fall on a holiday or a non-trading day, the payment of the relevant Consideration shall be made on the next business day.

The Bidder shall acquire any Shares that may be tendered by any stockholder of EPCIB in response to the Tender Offer. The Tender Offer shall commence on August 31, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. and shall end on September 28, 2006 at 12:00 noon (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Buyer subject to prior approval of the Commission. The Shares to be tendered are intended to be crossed at the PSE on October 2, 2006 (the "Cross Date"). Settlement Date shall be on the same date.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Bidder may do so by securing an Application to Tender Shares form (the "Application Form") from and submitting a duly accomplished Application Form together with the documentary requirements to the Transaction Broker, BDO Securities Corporation at 11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium, #27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City, Philippines.

The Transaction Broker reserves the right to require the tendering stockholder to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the Shares being tendered by the stockholder pursuant to the Offer.

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Bidder must be received by the Tender Offer Agent in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of September 28, 2006. Shares received thereafter or without the required documents shall be rejected by the Bidder.

The Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the stockholder of record at any time during the tender offer period by submitting a written request for the tendered Shares to the Tender Offer Agent and surrendering the original Securities In-Receipt issued by the Tender Offer Agent/Transaction Broker. The last day to withdraw tendered Shares shall be on Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 12 noon.

The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Buyer for payment on September 28, 2006 at 12:00 noon (the "Closing Date") subject to the condition that the Bidder shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Bidder of the Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Application Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Bidder with the Commission. For queries, please call the Transaction Broker at contact details set forth below. Copies of the Application Form and the SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by the stockholders of the EPCIB, free of charge, from the following:

BDO Securities Corp.
11th Floor,
The JMT Corporate Condominium,
No. 27 ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Attention:
Janet D. Amora
Tel. No.: 687-3708

Attention:
Jasper M. Jimenez
Tel. No.: 687-3628

BDO Capital & Investment Corp.
11th Floor,
The JMT Corporate Condominium,
No. 27 ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Attention:
Francisco Eduardo A. Sarmiento
Tel. No.: 633-6756

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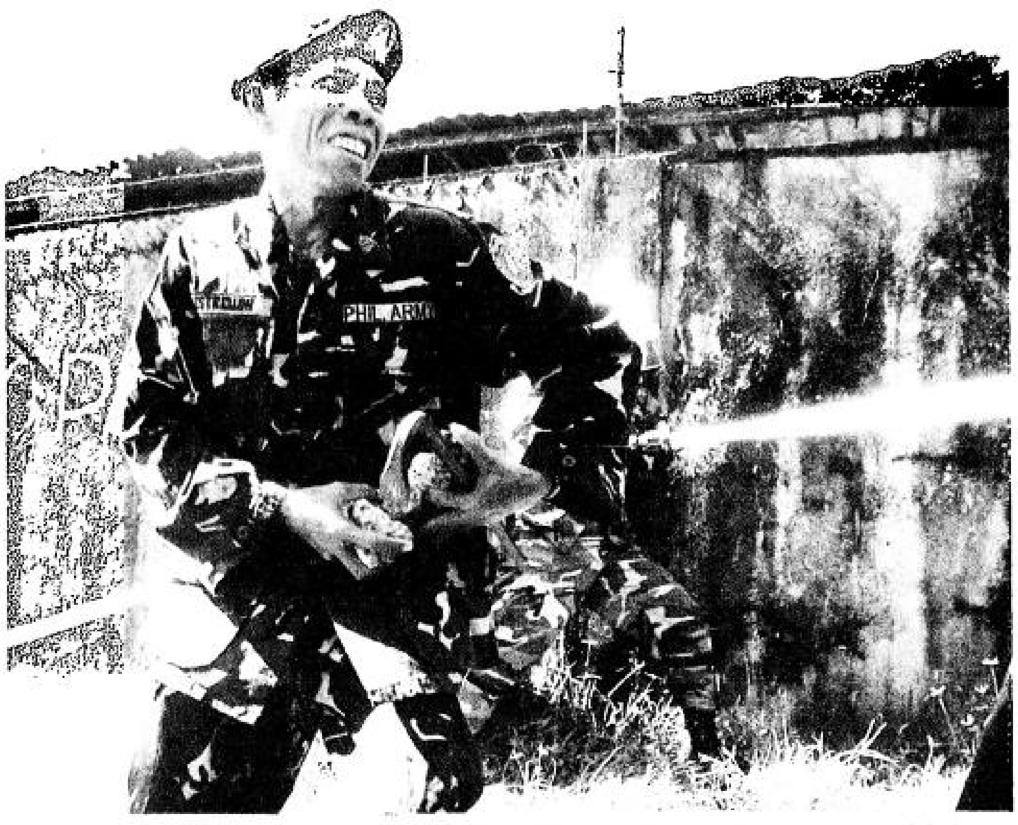
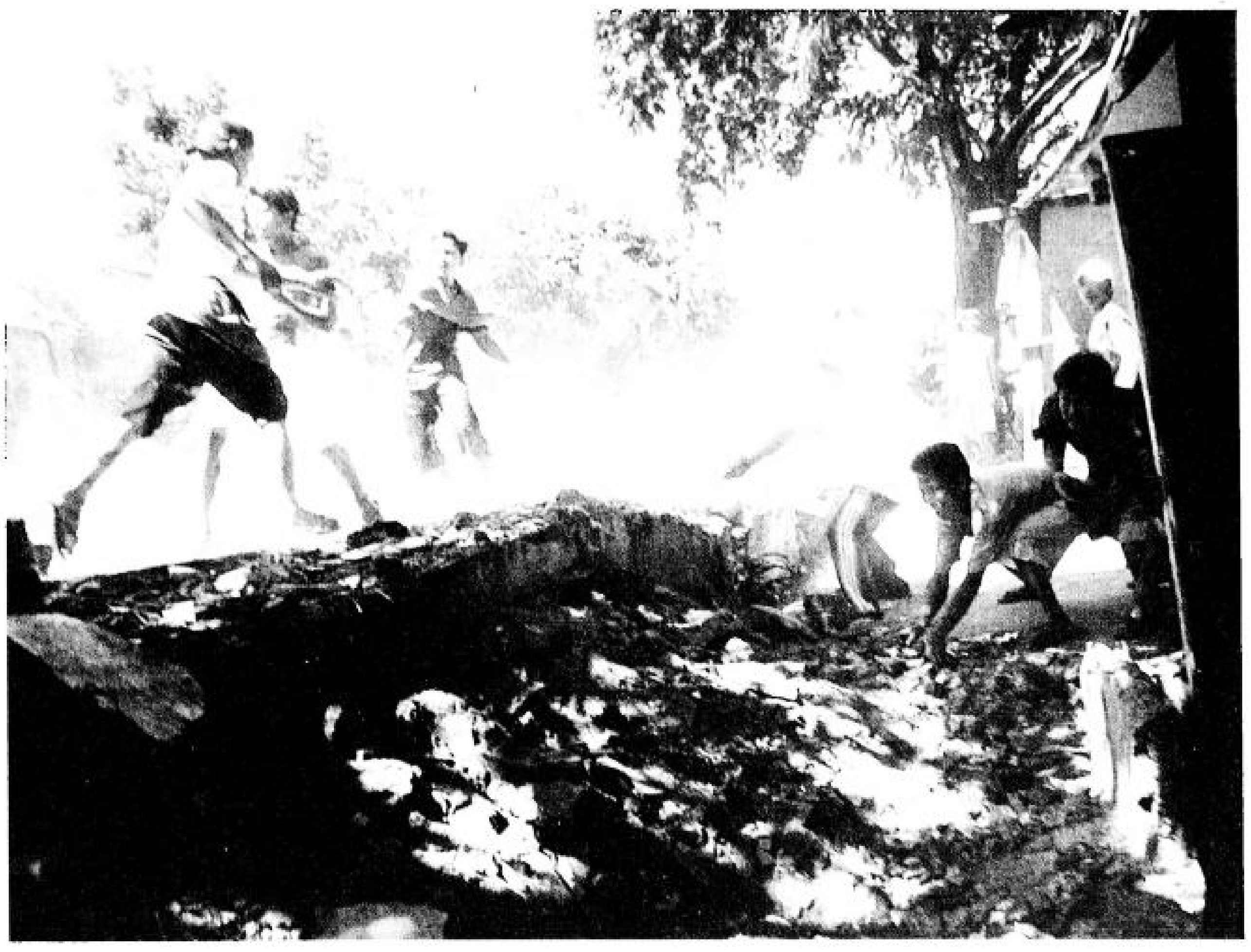




A SOLDIER gets ready to give residents (right) of Western Bicutan, Taguig, a taste of their own medicine while another soldier behind him struggles to keep a water hose trained on the stone throwers. REM ZAMORA

9 persons hurt in Taguig demolition

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WATER AND STONES RAINED on Sitio Masagana in Barangay Western Bicutan, Taguig City yesterday as a demolition team tried to tear down about 106 houses in the area.

Nine people were hurt in the incident, five of them residents while the rest were soldiers—members of the Philippine Army's Task Force Bantay tasked to carry out the demolition.

As early as 5 a.m., residents had already blocked both lanes of the East Service Road with huge rocks and burning tires to prevent the demolition team from reaching the area.

"Tensions rose when residents pelted the demolition team with rocks, causing the latter to retaliate by spraying them with water from a fire truck. It happened while the officials were trying to settle the issue through a dialogue," Taguig police chief, Supt. Alfred Corpus, told the INQUIRER.

After several hours of negotiation between residents and Mayor Freddie Tinga, Vice Mayor George Elias, Col. Dante Fernandez of Task Force Bantay, Presidential Commission for Urban Poor Secretary Percival Chavez and Senator Rodolfo Biazon, the demolition was postponed to Wednesday next week.

Tinga, meanwhile, formed a committee to be led by Chavez to discuss relocation plans for qualified families.

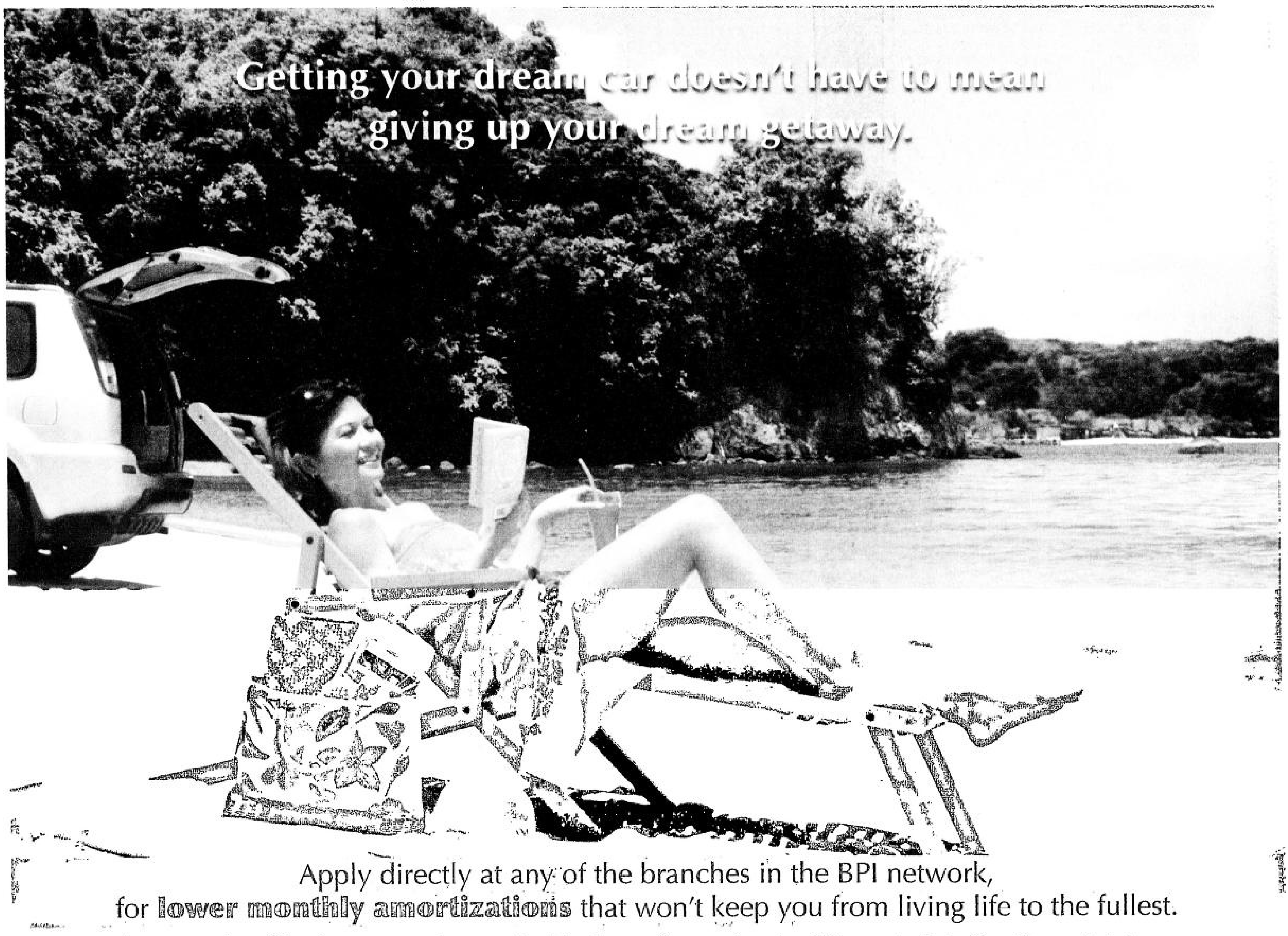
Corpus said houses in Sitio Masagana had to be torn down because "the area is still part of the Libingan ng mga Bayani."

Peewee Vasquez, manager of the Fort Bonifacio Satellite Government Center Area, added that the houses were "in the flight path, posing as a danger to civil aviation."

Planes bound for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport usually fly over the area.

Army officials had earlier said that a shoulder-mounted rocket launcher or a sniper rifle fired from Sitio Masagana could bring any passing aircraft down.

According to Vasquez, the site was not covered by any proclamation and therefore could not be awarded to informal settlers.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Drive you Dream

Battle of the billboard heats up

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

OFFICIALS OF BARANGAY Wack-Wack yesterday formally asked the Mandaluyong City Hall to recall the permit it had issued for the construction of an 80-foot billboard on Edsa.

If their demand is ignored, they said they would take the matter to the courts.

Barangay officials have been opposing the ongoing construction of a giant billboard on Edsa, next to a sub-station of the Manila Electric Company.

The barangay had refused to issue a clearance for the project several times only to find out last week that a permit had been issued by City Hall two months ago.

On Tuesday, barangay officials passed a resolution in which they vowed to "take appropriate legal action to nullify the billboard permit issued by the Mandaluyong City Hall."

The same resolution also sought to nullify an executive order issued by Mayor Neptali Gonzales, allowing City Hall to grant permits to businessmen whose applications in the barangay had been ignored or denied.

In refusing to allow the construction of the billboard, barangay officials cited a local ordinance which limits the sizes and contents of billboards.

Sought for comment, Gonzales told the INQUIRER he was confident that City Hall, in granting a permit, followed local ordinances and the National Building Code.

But in their letter to Gonzales and to City Building Official Conrad Anciado, Wack-Wack chair Marcos Roces said the executive order was "contrary to law."

He demanded in his letter that Gonzales recall the permit issued for the billboard, as well as his executive order within three days, "otherwise the barangay shall take appropriate legal action."

Refusing to be named, an official from City Hall said the issuance of the executive order was prompted by complaints from businessmen against the barangay council.

The ordinance against billboards, for instance, had long been frowned upon by some businessmen in the city, because its provisions are far more stringent than those of the city government or even national laws governing billboards, the official added.

The barangay ordinance had been approved by the Mandaluyong City Council.

Barangay kagawad Errol Zshornack, meanwhile, acknowledged that while there may be complaints that the barangay ordinance was too strict, "there are more people complaining that there are already too many billboards, especially along Edsa."

Barangay Wack-Wack has jurisdiction over the stretch on Edsa from the corner of Connecticut to Shaw Boulevard as well as parts of the Ortigas Center and several posh villages.

QC dads want a break from fiestas

By DJ Yap

TO SOME, BARANGAY "FIEStas" mean delicious food, festive parties and good times for the community.

To others, however, they are just a pain in the neck—and also create a hole in the pocket.

Lawmakers in Quezon City want to limit the holding of barangay fiestas to just once every two years to cut costs, and perhaps prevent people from sending solicitation letters.

'Need to regulate'

In a proposed ordinance, five councilors said there was a "need to regulate the celebration of barangay fiestas" to minimize expenses and increase the city's fiscal savings, considering the state of the economy.

Councilors Resty Malangen, Rommel Abesamis, Eric Rey Medina, Francisco Calalay Jr. and Janet Malaya proposed that lavish feasts be held only every two years, beginning this year.

Simple Mass

In lieu of the usual pomp and pageantry, fiestas should be celebrated through a solemn and simple Mass in honor of the barangay's patron saint, according to the councilors.

Solicitation for fiesta celebrations shall also be allowed only every three years.

Voluntary donations

But the councilors said "voluntary contributions" from donors for the holding of fiesta celebrations "shall always be allowed."

If approved, the chair of the barangay's fiesta committee shall enforce the ordinance. The ordinance shall take effect 15 days after its approval and publication in a newspaper.

The proposed ordinance did not specify penalties or fines for violators.

present
30 ,2

GRATEFUL CANINE
A labrador, one of the search and rescue dogs belonging to the Philippine Canine Search and Rescue Foundation, Inc. gives a kiss to Kumiko Kuroda, organizer of the "Dog Day Afternoon" concert, which would benefit the organization and the Philippine National Red Cross. The concert is set on Sept. 23. Looking on are PNRC chair Senator Richard "Dick" Gordon (left) and Makati Councilor Junjun Binay, PHK9SAR president.

RODEL ROTONI

METROBRIEFS

Slay try foiled

AN EMPLOYEE of the Commission on Audit assigned to Muntinlupa City survived a slay attempt on Tuesday morning in Quezon City. Maxima Aquino, audit officer at Muntinlupa City Hall, was on her way to work on board a Toyota Revo with her daughter and a driver on Road I, near the corner of Mindanao Avenue, when a man approached the vehicle. The unidentified man, in his late 40s, suddenly pulled out a handgun and shot Aquino pointblank, before casually walking away, investigators said. The victim, who was seated with her daughter Amy in the middle row, was hit in the lower left jaw, according to a report by PO3 Florencio Escobido and PO3 Jun Fortunato. Aquino was rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center for treatment.

DJ Yap

Fugitive arrested

A CHINESE-FILIPINO fugitive, who was earlier convicted of drug charges but evaded arrest by using several aliases, was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Pasay City during the weekend. NBI Director Nestor Mantaring identified the suspect as Andy Co, also known as Andrew Co y Tan, Andrew David Co, Andy Tan, Gregorio Tan and Alex Chan Javier. Investigation conducted by the NBI Background Investigation Division (BID) led by Head Agent Arnold Lazaro revealed that Co has four standing warrants of arrest for drug possession and illegal use of credit cards issued by different courts.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Cop shot dead

A POLICEMAN and two suspected holdup men were killed after a shootout on Tuesday night in Las Piñas, police said. Insp. Ferjen Torred, criminal investigation division chief, identified the fatalities as P02 Francisco Pangilinan, Reynaldo Mendoza and Alex Angeles. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

DID YOU KNOW

THE SAN JUAN De Dios Educational Foundation, Inc., located on Roxas Boulevard, is the oldest hospital in the Philippines. It traces its roots to the arrival of Franciscan missionaries in the country in 1578. A lay brother who came with them, Fray Juan Clemente, became interested in the medicinal value of tropical plants. He then built a two-ward hospital made of *nipa* and bamboo, with a third ward added later on. In 1596, the Confraternity of Mercy, a group established initially to look for support for the third ward, took charge of the hospital. A fire and an earthquake in the early 1600s, however, drained the group's resources, forcing them to hand over the hospital's management to the Brothers of St. John of God. This was how the hospital came to be known as Hospital de San Juan de Dios.

Cyril L. Bonabente, INQUIRER Research

Ex-security guard arrested for kidnapping, extortion

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A FORMER SECURITY GUARD WHO ALlegedly tried to kidnap and extort money from an Indian businessman was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation during an entrapment operation in Quezon City last Sunday.

Apart from robbery, extortion and attempted kidnapping charges, Ian Morin also faces usurpation of authority charges for pretending to be an NBI agent, according to bureau director Nestor Mantaring.

Investigation conducted by the Background Investigation Division (BID) under Head Agent Arnold Lazaro showed that complainant Davinder Kumar was riding his motorcycle along Baler Street in, Quezon City last Aug. 9 when the suspect and his companion flagged him down.

Claiming to be policemen, Morin and his still unidentified accomplice tried to drag the victim toward a car nearby, but the victim was able to escape by running toward a barangay hall. Supervising Agent Antonio Suarez, BID executive officer, said the complainant and his family then began receiving threatening calls from the suspects.

"We received at least 15 calls from the suspect who also identified himself as an NBI agent," Kumar said in an interview with reporters. He added that the suspect threatened to set fire to his house and kill his child if he wasn't paid P1 million. At times, the phone calls were made by an Indian who spoke to him in Punjabi. From P1 million, the demand was later lowered to P150,000.

Morin was arrested while accepting the money from Kumar's brother-in-law Shiv Om inside a restaurant on Visayas Avenue in Quezon City. The suspect and his still unidentified accomplices have been charged in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, NBI officials said.

FROM LUZON TO LEBANON: PER HUMANITATEM AD PACEM

By Atty. Soliman M. Santos, Jr.
Vice-Chair for NGOs
PNRC IHL National Committee

The Philippine's commemoration of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Day this August, comes at a time of an "all-out war" that is building up in the Philippines, especially in Luzon, and of an ongoing all-out war in Lebanon. In both cases, ordinary Filipino civilians have been directly affected and, from the look of things, will continue to be so. Short of an end to those wars, whether their causes are just or not, there is no "justness" in the grave damage done to innocent civilians, whether Filipino or Lebanese, and to civilian infrastructure.

It appears to us, particularly on both sides of the Lebanon war, that this damage is no longer just "collateral" or incidental but deliberate - whether it is the aerial bombing of Lebanese cities, towns and villages, or the firing of rockets into northern Israeli cities. The damage, especially on Lebanon's civilian population and infrastructure, has been particularly disproportionate. If war must be waged at all, this is no way it should be waged. And the grave, disproportionate and unjust damage done is already reason enough to end the war or cease the hostilities.

The current course of the all-out war in Lebanon could be the worst-case scenario of an all-out war in the Philippines. After all, don't both of these wars involve the use of "overwhelming force" against a non-state armed group, one which is tagged as "terrorist" and which claims to be or acts as "a state within a state"? One big difference though is that one is an international armed conflict, while the other is an internal armed conflict. But there are rules common and specific to these two types of armed conflict. That is what IHL is all about, rules which limit the ways and means war is waged so as to spare, protect and aid those who have no part in the war, the non-combatants, the civilians.

IHL is all the more relevant in this time of all-out war, locally and globally, in Luzon and in Lebanon. Without being alarmist, human security experts have already pointed out that this is a time of both "new wars" and "new terrorism" post-9/11, that the broader context and greatest threat is the danger of a 21st Century war stretching from Morocco to Mindanao, but principally based in Asia, even more than the Middle East, arising from the potential for protracted and new conflicts becoming linked and spiraling out of control. The least that should be done is to spare the innocents who happen to be the most vulnerable and defenseless.

That in itself, if it can, as it should be, done, will go a long way in eventually reaching a just and lasting peace. IHL experts have pointed out that it "helps pave the road to peace." It is "an essential part of the order of peace… It makes a substantial contribution to the maintenance of peace in that it promotes humanity in time of war." It "helps lay the oundations on which a peaceful settlement can be built once the conflict is over. The chances for a lasting peace are much better if a feeling of mutual trust can be maintained between the belligerents during the war. By respecting the basic rights and dignity of man, the belligerents help maintain that trust." On the other hand, "the greater the degradation of the strife, the more difficult it becomes to bring about peace."

Precisely, one motto of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the vanguard of IHL, is Per Humanitatem Ad Pacem ("From Humanity to Peace"), which the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) has adopted as the theme for IHL Day 2006. As the Statutes of the Movement declares, "by its humanitarian work and the dissemination of its ideals, the Movement promotes a lasting peace, which is not simply the absence of war, but is a dynamic process of cooperation among all States and peoples, cooperation founded on respect for freedom, independence, national sovereignty, equality, human rights, as well as on a fair and equitable distribution of resources to meet the needs of peoples."

PNRC hosted two weeks ago the 1st Southeast Forum on IHL among National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the region. The PNRC Department of Social Services is coordinating with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to restore contact between OFWs in Lebanon and their families in the Philippines through a family-links website www.familylinks.icrc.org. The PNRC National Headquarters has issued an administrative memo for the armed conflict (much like disaster) preparedness of its key national, regional and provincial officials due to the announced intensified anti-insurgency campaign. The PNRC IHL National Committee has issued a call for all-out respect of IHL in view of President Arroyo's order for an "all-out war" to crush the communist insurgency in two years, which in turn generates its own "tit for tat struggle" of all-out rebel tactical offensives.

Because the best deterrent to war crimes and other serious violations of the rules of war, whether committed by soldiers or by rebels, is still an effective criminal justice system for the prosecution and punishment of these crimes, the PNRC IHL National Committee has been pushing for the "IHL Bill" (now House Bills Nos. 1624, 2557 and 4998, and Senate Bill No. 2135) to define and penalize war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of IHL especially where children, cultural property and places of worship are involved. The Philippines is a party to a number of IHL treaties, most notably the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 (thus this day for IHL Day), but unfortunately has not passed the necessary national implementing legislation for these treaties.

Domestic legislation and enforcement are needed to define and punish not only terrorism but also war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of IHL. All wars, whether wars against terrorism or against insurgency or against another country, need to have safeguards and guarantees so that lethal weapons are not used against innocent civilians. IHL - through its dissemination, protective measures, legislation and enforcement - provides one important safeguard.

ADVT.

All party list solons should follow Rep. Etta Rosales' example

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

EVEN A LEFTIST LEADER COULD NO longer stomach the extortion activities of the New People's Army (NPA) and has come out to denounce the guerrilla group.

Akbayan Party Rep. Etta Rosales called the burning of an export company truck by NPA rebels "downright gangsterism."

The firm, AlterTrade, reportedly refused to pay P30 million in revolutionary taxes to the NPA.

AlterTrade is managed by former NPA members who have left the movement and gone into the business of exporting *muscovado* (sugar) and bananas.

The NPA's demand that AlterTrade pay revolutionary taxes shows that communist rebels don't respect former comrades.

Now that Rosales has denounced the extortion activities of the NPA, the other leftist members of Congress should do the same to preclude suspicion they are connected with the NPA.

There have been reports, albeit unconfirmed, that some party list congressmen and women have been giving financial support to the NPA through their countrywide development fund, a euphemism for pork barrel.

***

Former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante is reportedly ill inside a US immigration detention facility and is asking for humanitarian aid from the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Why doesn't our embassy ask the US government to send him back to the Philippines so he can be given utmost medical attention in one of our world-class hospitals?

Anyway, Bolante can afford the expensive hospital bills and medicines because he probably has the bulk of the P728-million fertilizer fund.

***

The Department of Foreign Affairs says the government is required to give aid to Bolante under the Vienna Convention on consular relations, as well as the Migrant Workers Act.

But Bolante is neither a holder of a diplomatic passport nor an overseas contract worker. So, how can he invoke the Vienna Convention or the Migrant Workers Act?

He went to the US on an expired visa to escape a Senate summons and possible criminal charges at home in connection with the P728-million scam.

***

Finally, the Senate has realized that it has been turned into a doormat by Malacañang through Executive Order 464 that bans government officials from appearing before congressional committees.

It will cite for contempt and issue an arrest order against any official that snubs its summonses.

But how can the Senate do that when the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation are under the Executive department?

The Senate might become a toothless tiger.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Over 40 killed in Iraq blasts despite clampdown

BAGHDAD—MORE THAN 40 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN BOMB attacks in Iraq on Wednesday morning, including 24 at a busy market in Baghdad where insurgents seem intent on defying a major US-backed security clampdown now in its fourth week.

A further 35 people were wounded in the attack on the Shorja wholesale market in central Baghdad, police said. Attacks in recent days have shattered a relative calm this past month.

A bomb in the nearby Karrada district killed two people and wounded 21 around the same time. A bomb went off near a busy fuel station, drawing a police unit in response. Five officers were then wounded in a second explosion, when a car detonated.

Three hours earlier, a bomb apparently left on a parked bicycle blasted a crowd of young Iraqi men outside an army recruiting office, killing 12 people and wounding 38.

Hilla provincial police spokesperson Captain Muthanna al-Mamuri said the bicycle appeared to have been left early in the morning, laden with an explosive package, close to the office in the center of Hilla, 100 km south of Baghdad.

It went off around 8 a.m., when a crowd had gathered. It followed several days of heavy bloodshed outside the capital, where US and Iraq troops have mounted a major security crackdown.

Recruitment centers for the Iraqi army and police, key elements of Washington's strategy for pulling out its own troops, have been frequent targets for insurgents from the Sunni Arab minority, including al Qaida Islamists, who oppose the rise of the Shi'ite Muslim majority in US-backed elections.

The mainly Shi'ite city of Hilla, close to the site of ancient Babylon, is surrounded by Sunni rural areas.

It has seen some of the deadliest sectarian bomb attacks over the past two years, including the bloodiest single blast in Iraq, when 125 people, many of them police recruits, were killed by a suicide car bomber in February 2005.

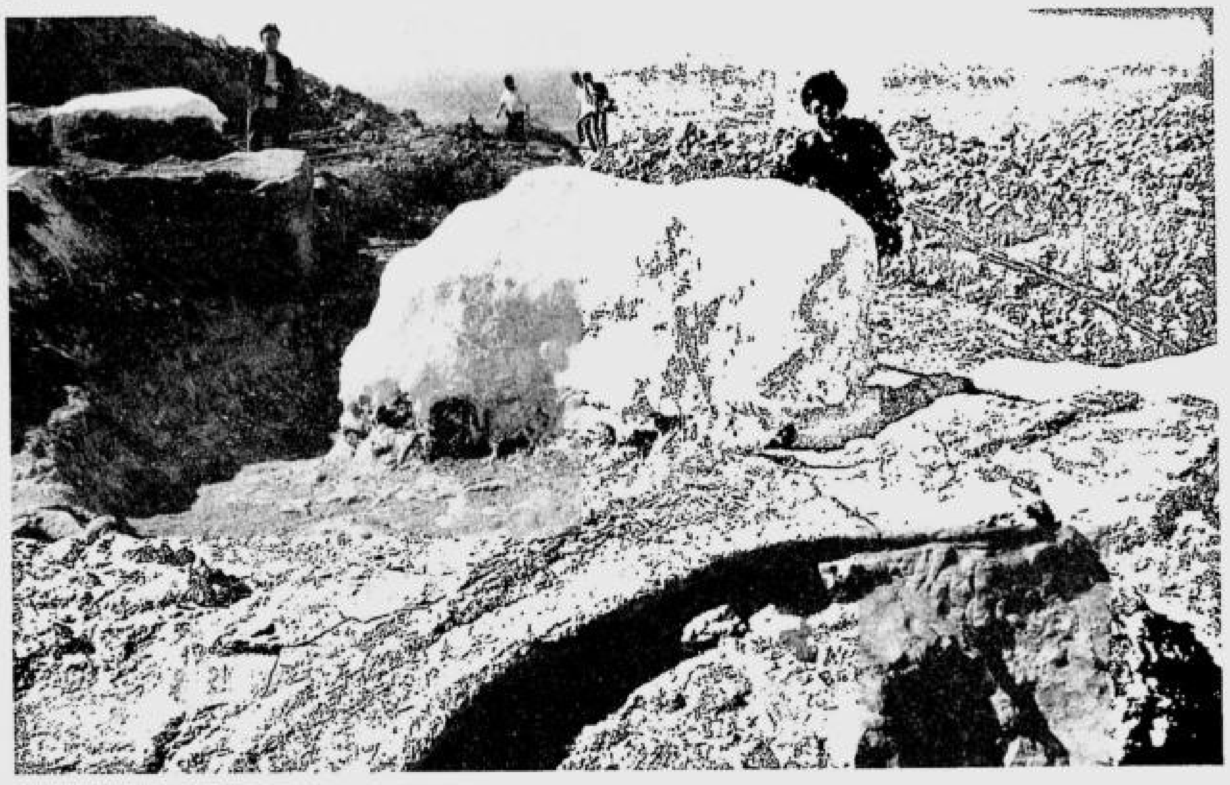
Despite the danger, young men continue to queue up at police and army recruitment centers, desperate for employment.

A large group of men responding to a newspaper advert for army recruits rioted outside the governor's office in Samawa, 270 km south of Baghdad, after being told to come back at the weekend, a witness said.

The witness said the police initially fired warning shots and then shot into the crowd after they began throwing rocks at the building, killing one man and wounding five. Three policemen were also injured in the riot.

US and Iraqi officials say the security crackdown in Baghdad is having an effect, with the murder rate down by half this month over last, when dozens of people a day were being killed in the capital alone, pitching Iraq closer to civil war. *Reuters*

AN IRAQI policeman shouts orders to people to step away as he stands next to an exploded car bomb in the Karada shopping district, one of the most important in Baghdad Aug. 30. AFP



LARGEST DINOSAUR

A Chinese man poses beside one of the remains of the largest dinosaur ever to be unearthed in Asia, measuring an estimated 35 meters (116 ft), in Changji Prefecture, part of northwest China's Xinjiang region, Aug 26. China has emerged as a treasure trove of dinosaur fossils, especially the northern desert regions, where the absence of vegetation makes them easier to find. AFP

Israel rejects UN appeal to lift Lebanon blockade

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL REJECTED A CALL from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Wednesday to lift its six-week air-and-sea blockade of Lebanon, saying it would only raise the siege once all elements of a ceasefire were in place.

During an hour of talks with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Annan had pressed for a lifting of the blockade, imposed after the start of the war against Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrilla group on July 12, mainly on economic grounds.

But at a news conference after their meeting, Olmert rebuffed Annan, saying any relaxation of pressure on Lebanon's ports and airspace depended on the full implementation of UN resolution 1701, which governs the ceasefire with Hezbollah.

"The (resolution) is a fixed buffet and everything will be implemented, including the lifting of the blockade, as part of the entire implementation of the different articles," he said.

Olmert was equally firm when it came to suggestions from Annan that Israel should withdraw all its troops from southern Lebanon within "days or weeks", once up to 5,000 UN-backed peacekeepers are on the ground.

"Israel will pull out of Lebanon once the resolution is implemented," Olmert said, indicating a longer timeline.

Annan, in Jerusalem after visiting Lebanon, is trying to strengthen a shaky, two-week-old truce that ended a 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah. His top priority had been the lifting of the blockade, principally on economic grounds.

"It is important not only because of the economic effect it is having on the country but it is also important to strengthen the democratic government of Lebanon with which Israel has repeatedly said it had no problems," Annan said.

Annan said he hoped soon to double to 5,000 the number of UN troops in Lebanon and urged Israel and Hezbollah to end swiftly all disputes blocking a lasting ceasefire.

On Tuesday, Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz said Israel would pull out thousands of troops that remain in southern Lebanon once a "reasonable" number of UN soldiers had deployed but did not give a figure.

Resolution 1701 calls for a deployment of 15,000 UN peacekeepers by Nov. 4, alongside Lebanese army troops. *Reuters*

UN body in no rush to tackle Iran nuke issue

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN SECURITY Council, keen to remain united in its high-stakes nuclear standoff with Tehran, is expected to take its time to respond to Iran's refusal to heed demands that it suspend uranium enrichment by Thursday.

"I would expect the dossier to come back into the council shortly, but only after a further period of discussion among capitals," Britain's UN Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry told reporters Tuesday. "I would expect activities here to resume toward the middle of September."

Jones Parry said the 15 council members and their respective capitals would first need to assess a report from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on whether Iran has complied with the demand that it freeze its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities by the Aug. 31 deadline.

They would then have "a clearer view of exactly how this should be carried forward," he said.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council—the US, France, Britain, Russia and China—plus Germany in June offered Iran a package of trade, technology and security incentives in exchange for a freeze of its uranium enrichment activities.

The Security Council last month set Aug. 31 as the deadline for Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities or face possible sanctions. But Tehran remains defiant.

China's UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP that the six powers were planning to have a meeting of their foreign ministry political directors around Sept. 7 to discuss the issue before sending the dossier back to the council. *AFP*

Air controller 'turned away' as jet crashed in Kentucky

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY—ONLY ONE AIR controller was on duty when ill-fated Comair flight 519 took off at a Kentucky airport and he turned his back as the jet went down the wrong runway and crashed, US investigators said Tuesday.

The lone controller on the overnight shift at Blue Grass Airport cleared the fully loaded Bombardier for takeoff early Sunday and "turned his back to perform administrative duties," said Debbie Hersman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), according to the Lexington Herald-Leader newspaper.

"This controller did not have visual contact with the aircraft," she said in a press conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

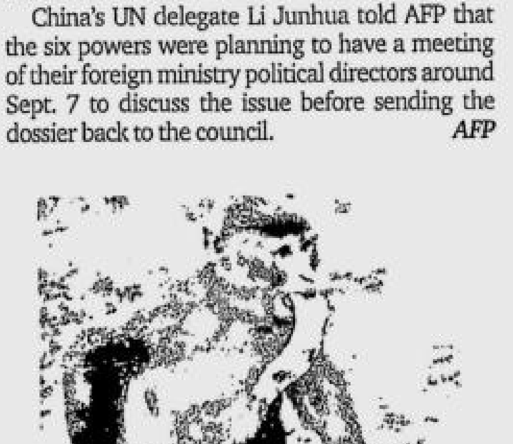
The ill-fated plane lined up in the pre-dawn hours Sunday on a shorter runway that was unlighted, because it was intended only for the daytime use of smaller, private planes.

Investigators are baffled as to why the pilots did not use the longer runway, which was illuminated. The jetliner took off too low, clipped trees and crashed less than a mile from the airport, killing everyone but the co-pilot.

The Federal Aviation Administration acknowledged Tuesday that having only one controller in the tower violated its own rules. The plane's cockpit recorder captured the voices of the captain and co-pilot commenting before takeoff that the runway on which they had lined up was unlit, Terry Williams, a spokesperson for the NTSB, told AFP.

They "made some comments about the fact that there were no lights," Williams said.

Tapes of conversations between the pilots and air traffic controller referred only to the longer, 2,134-meter runway 22, according to the NTSB. *AFP*



BANANA SNATCHER

A monkey snatches bananas from a makeshift shop in the Nepali capital of Kathmandu Aug. 30. REUTERS

New test hastens diagnosis of lethal bird flu strain

IN AN ADVANCE THAT SPEEDS UP DIAGNOSIS of the most dangerous avian flu, scientists have developed a detailed influenza test that takes less than 12 hours, federal health officials said Monday.

The new technology, a microchip covered with bits of genetic material from many different flu strains, cuts the typical time needed for diagnosis of the A(H5N1) flu to less than a day from a week or more. In addition, rather than giving just a yes-or-no result, it usually reveals which flu a human or an animal has.

That means that public health officials investigating, for example, a flu outbreak in poultry or in humans in a remote Asian or African village will be able to decide quickly whether to kill thousands of birds or to treat hundreds of potentially exposed people with expensive anti-viral drugs.

Right now, ascertaining whether a flu is of the lethal A(H5N1) strain requires that a sample be frozen and shipped to a highly secure laboratory, usually in a major city like Atlanta or Hong Kong, where the virus can be grown in eggs, isolated and genetically sequenced, a process that takes four to five days plus shipping time and runs the risk of samples defrosting in transit and being ruined.

The new test, called FluChip, can be performed in any laboratory that can amplify bits of genetic material; many countries have such laboratories in their national capitals, if not in provincial hospitals. *New York Times News Service*

WORLDBRIEFS

13th UK bomb suspect

LONDON—A young British Muslim arrested during an investigation into an alleged plot to blow up US-bound airliners was charged with conspiracy to murder, police said on Tuesday. Nabeel Hussain, 22, is the 13th person charged in connection with the plot and the ninth to face the most serious charges of conspiracy to murder and planning acts of terrorism. Like the other eight suspects, he was accused of plotting to smuggle parts of home-made bombs on to planes, then build the bombs and detonate them. Hussain, from east London, is due to appear at a magistrates' court in central London on Wednesday morning. **Reuters**

29 petrol scavengers killed

NEAR DIWANIYA, Iraq—At least 29 people were killed when a blast ripped through scavengers siphoning petrol from pools around a breach in a disused pipeline in central Iraq late on Monday, health officials said. Dozens more were missing and may have been killed. A Reuters reporter at the rural site near Diwaniya, 180 km south of Baghdad, saw 15 charred and mutilated bodies, including that of a boy. The explosion wounded 26 people, who were taken to area hospitals with severe burns. "Some of the wounded have burns in 75 percent of their bodies," Hamid Jaafi, a health official in Diwaniya told Reuters, adding the death toll is expected to climb. **Reuters**

S. Africa passes mercenaries bill

CAPE TOWN—South Africa passed an anti-mercenaries law on Tuesday that could bar thousands of its nationals from working for security companies in global hotspots such as Iraq and in other national armies. Defense Minister Mosiuoa Lekota told lawmakers before the bill was passed by an overwhelming majority that one of the intentions of the measure was to stop local mercenaries "subverting democracy" across Africa. The government wants to stop civilians and former soldiers—many trained in the apartheid army—from fighting or offering security services after South Africans were found to be involved in a number of attempted coups and conflicts in Africa. **Reuters**

Israel kills 5 Palestinians

GAZA—Israeli troops killed five Palestinians and wounded a dozen in attacks on militants in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on Tuesday, medics and witnesses said. Troops in Gaza, who launched an offensive in June to free an abducted soldier and suppress cross-border rocket fire, fired a tank shell into a crowd in the Shijaia district, a militant stronghold, killing two people and wounding three, witnesses said. An army spokesperson said troops identified two militants armed with an anti-tank missile and fired at them. **Reuters**

60 inmates bolt E. Timor jail

DILI, East Timor—Nearly 60 inmates escaped from an East Timor jail on Wednesday, including a former military police chief and militiamen who opposed the country's break from Indonesian rule, the prison warden said. Carlos Sarmento said at least 57 inmates fled the Becora Penitentiary in the capital Dili after breaking down several walls on the east wing. Among those who escaped was Maj. Alfredo Reinado, former chief of East Timor military police and several pro-Jakarta militiamen sentenced in connection with 1999 riots that left nearly 1,500 people dead. **AP**

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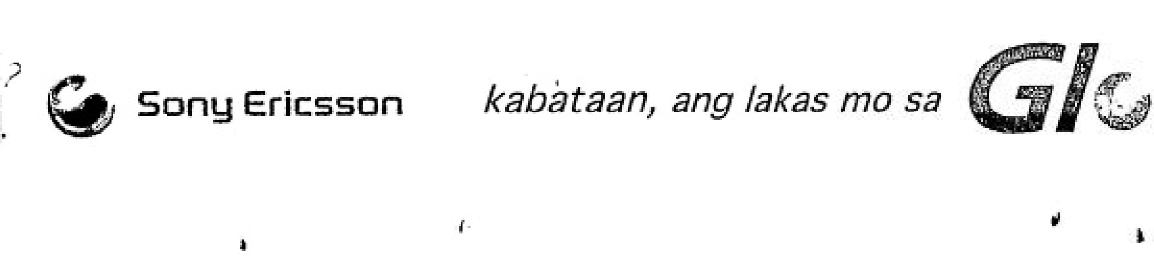

Congratulations Ichthus!

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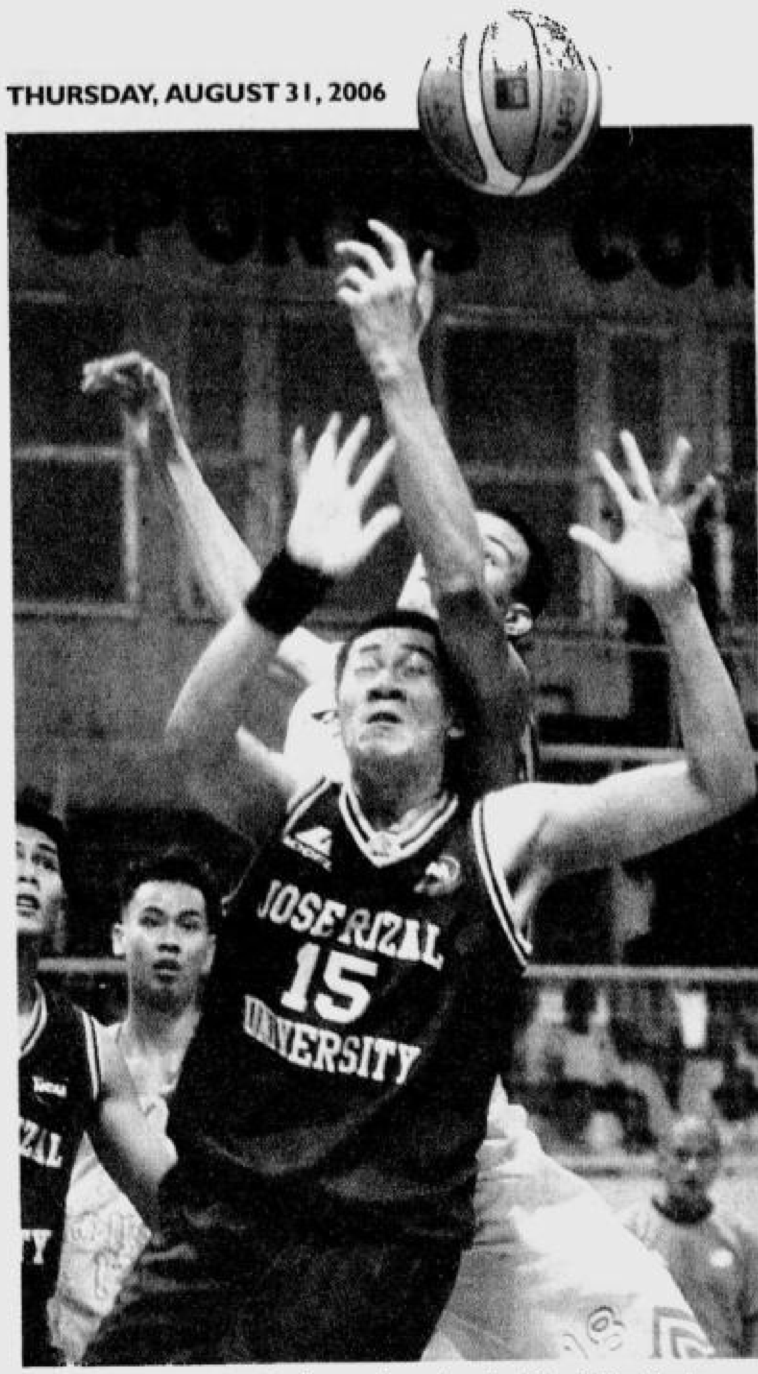


JRU'S James Sena battles for a rebound against San Sebastian's Francis De Leon in their game yesterday. RYAN LIM

Salud key to cage unity

By Musong R. Castillo

THE TWO FACTIONS CLAIMING TERRITORIAL rights as the legitimate basketball body in the Philippines have one man in mind to possibly head the new, unified cage group.

Rudy Salud, author of the World Boxing Council's constitution and the man who steered the PBA to unprecedented heights in the late '80s and early '90s as commissioner, has been approached by both the Basketball Association of the Philippines and Pilipinas Basketball to help draw up the new group's bylaws, among other things.

The 68-year-old confirmed this development in an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER late last night, adding several conditions have to be satisfied for him to consider the offer.

"One of those requirements would have to be the go-signal from my doctors," said Salud, who had a more advanced version of the pacemaker implanted on Feb. 14. "This being a high-profile case, the team (of doctors who did the procedure) thinks that this could be highly stressful."

SALUD

Salud, who was also a highly respected leader in amateur boxing, said that he expects to get a word from Dr. Carlo Esguerra today before working on two other pre-requisites he laid down on BAP president Joey Lina and PB head Bernie Atienza.

"The first thing they'd have to agree on would be the name," Salud said. "I understand the sensitivity of this matter, the BAP (name) having tradition and history and the POC not wanting the name of the BAP.

"But personally, I'd like for the BAP name to stay, not for anything else, but because of the tradition it has."

Salud said that this matter is as integral a part as the second requirement, which both the BAP and PB could work out with the Philippine Olympic Committee at the soonest time possible.

"I want an assurance that the POC will approve the passing of the (new group's) constitution nominally," Salud said. "Otherwise, what we will be doing will be of no use to any of us."

The possibility of Salud heading the new cage body came after the BAP and PB had forged an agreement with the world-governing Fiba in organizing a new, unified body.

In a decision issued from Tokyo recently, the Central Board said that it would only lift the suspension on the Philippines after all the Fiba commission's requirements for both local groups have been met.

Among the Fiba pre-conditions are the formulation by the unified BAP-PB group of a new constitution and bylaws, the election of the new group's officers and—according to a source close to both parties—the renaming of the BAP.

All the moves taken by this new group will be monitored by Bob Elphinston, the incoming Fiba president who is also a member of the commission together with Carl Ching Menky, Borislav Stankovic, Patrick Baumann and Dato Yeoh Choo Hock.

Lions rip Cardinals, top elims

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA SECURED THE FINAL FOUR TOP spot and consigned the No. 4 position to Mapua yesterday.

The Red Lions kept on pounding despite feeble opposition from the Cardinals early in the fourth quarter to fashion out a 73-56 victory in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

It was the 11th consecutive triumph and 12th overall against a lone loss for San Beda which is assured of the No. 1 slot even if the Lions drop their final game against second-running and defending champion Letran next week.

In topping the eliminations for the first time since the 1991 season, the Lions also set up a semifinal duel against their victims while enjoying the twice-to-beat advantage.

Mapua coach Horacio Lim practically gave up the fight with still nine minutes to go when he was slapped a technical foul while protesting an unsportsmanlike foul by Joferson Gonzales on a dunking Samuel Ekwe.

He recalled his frontliners in favor of his second stringers with the Lions ahead at 57-42 and the Cardinals eventually fell to 7-6.

"I think he's trying to prevent injuries and reserving for the Final Four," said coach Koy Banal of San Beda, which finished 4-10 overall last year.

Escobal and Aljamal topscored with 17 points each for the Lions, who ruled the boards, 62-42. Ekwe contributed seven points and 11 rebounds.

Earlier, Jose Rizal downed San Sebastian, 89-76, to tie the Stags and idle Perpetual at 4-9.

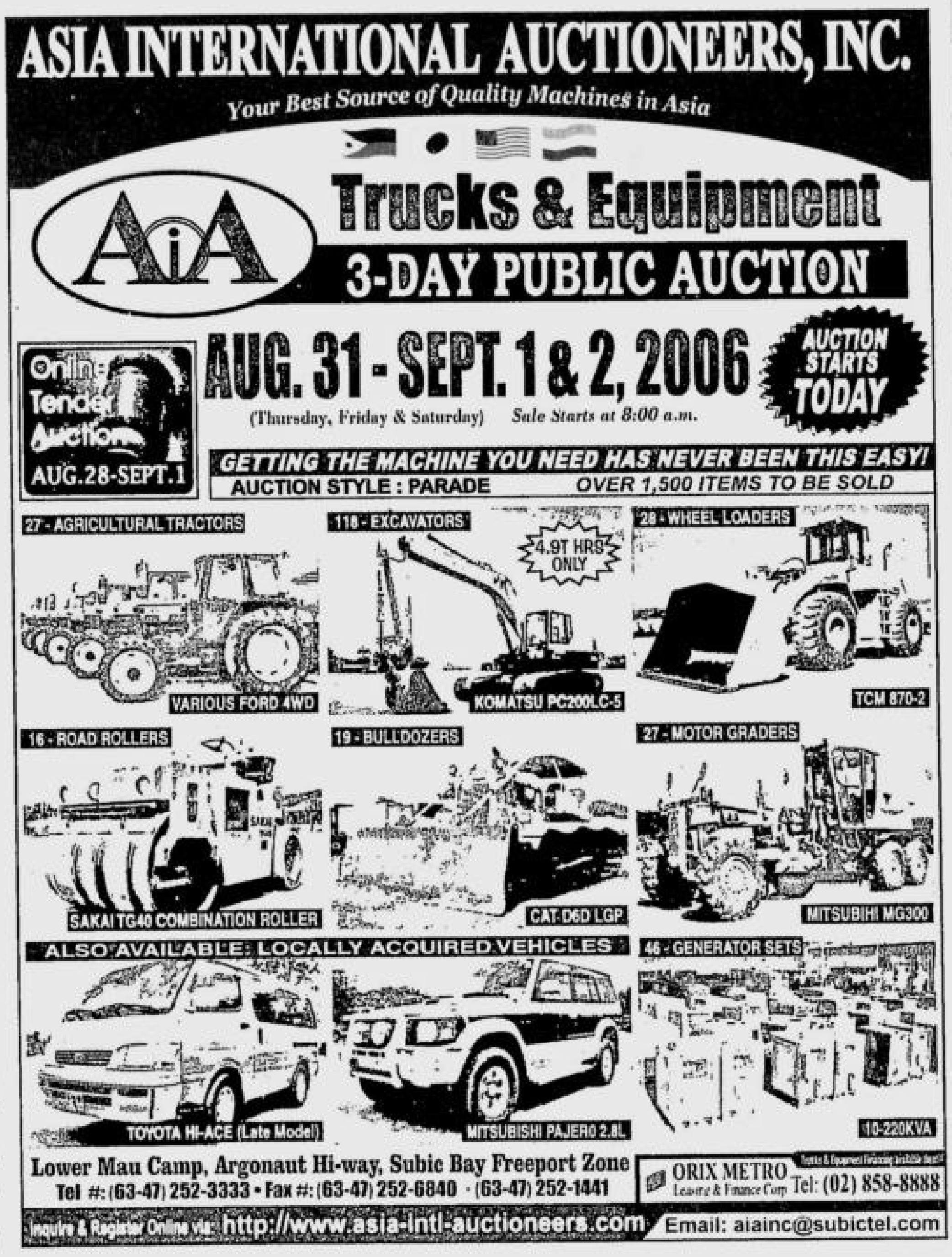
In the juniors games, Philippine Christian demolished Letran, 90-61, to lay claim of the twice-to-beat incentive. The Staglets edged the Light Bombers, 79-77, to improve their chances of bagging the twice-to-beat incentive.

First Game (Jrs)

SAN SEBASTIAN 79—Buenafe 24, Bringas Anthony 16, Nasayao 11, Zulueta 10, Del Rio 8, Soledad 7, Sikat 2, Bringas Arvie 1, Juan 0, Penaflor 0.

JOSE RIZAL 77—Lituania 30, Kabigting 25, Gabriel 5, Cipriano 5, Bejado 5, Pineda 4, Sta. Cruz 3, Del Rosario 0, Santos 0, Ungco 0.

LIONS/ A24



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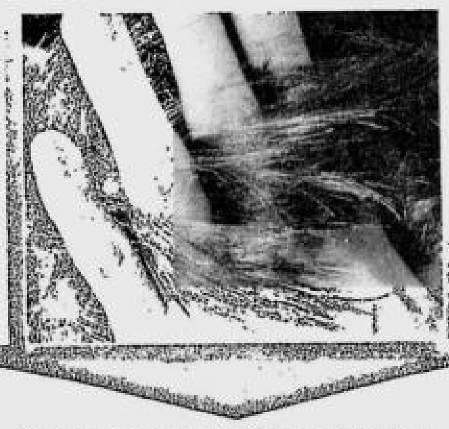

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RP divers, swimmers aim for big splash

FILIPINO DIVERS AND SWIMMERS hope to stir a big wave in the 15th Asian Games from Dec. 1-15 in Doha, Qatar.

Bidding to come up with bigger splashes than the ones they generated in the diving competition of the Manila Southeast Asian Games are Sheila Mae Perez, Ceseil Domenios, Zardo Domenios, Niño Carog, Rexel Ryan Fabriga and Jaime Asok.

Perez won three gold medals, while Domenios had one in tandem with Perez in the 3-meter synchronized springboard.

Ceseil's brother Zardo won a gold, along with Carog and Fabriga. Asok will be replacing Kevin Kong, who shared the gold with Fabriga in the synchronized 10-meter platform event.

The national team will be arriving on Sept. 16 after a 5-day training regimen in Zigong, China, under the tutelage of Chinese Zhang Dehu.

Zhang trained Chinese Olympic champion Gao Min, now head coach of the Canadian diving team.

The quintet will then depart for Chang Shu in Shanghai for the World Cup competition.

"Almost sure *na 1-2 na ang China sa* World Cup," said former national coach Rommel Kong. "So *ang* bronze medal will be a tossup among Korea, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines."

Working with the national team since 1997, Kong had turned over the coaching chores to Zhang and assistant coach Laurence Ifurung to accept an invitation by the Asian Swimming Federation to be a technical judge in the Asian Games.

Kristine Angeles Lozada, chairperson of the national diving committee, also received an invitation.

The presence of two Filipino judges in Doha will be a critical factor in the country's medal hopes.

"*Sa* Busan (2002 Asian Games), *meron sana tayong* two bronze medals at least. But we had no Filipino judge there," said Kong. *"Doon kami nasingitan ng Malaysia. Sila meron mga judges."*

Swimming, meanwhile, has named SEA Games triple gold medalist Miguel Molina (200 individual medley, 200 breaststroke, 400 IM, 200 freestyle), Fil-Am Erica Totten (200 free, 200 fly, 100 fly), Fil-Am James Walsh (200 fly), Jackie Pangilinan (200 breast), Kendrick Uy (100 free, 50 free, and possibly the 200 free relay), and Ryan Arabejo (1,500 free, 400 free, 100 back).

"We are evaluating if our junior players would be competitive enough to fill up the four remaining slots in the team," said swimming coach Pinky Brosas.

Arabejo and another hopeful Mariachi Gandionco are bound for Rio de Janiero for the FINA World Youth Championship, while Uy had just returned from stints in Jakarta (SEA age-group), Shanghai (World Championship), and Vancouver (Pan-Pacific).

Uy is ranked 42nd in the world in the 25-meter pool short course event.

TRACE COLLEGE
PHILIP

SHEILA Mae Perez

PBA leaves Asiad stint up to Chot

By Musong R. Castillo

WITH THE ASIAD ORIGINALLY NOT IN THE long term Philippine Basketball Association program, the pro league yesterday asked national coach Chot Reyes "to study" whether to coach a non-professional team in Doha, Qatar or drop the event altogether.

"It (Asiad stint) was not really in the (long term) plan," PBA Commissioner Noli Eala told the Inquirer over the phone.

"Even before all these problems arose, the Asiad was not part of the PBA's obligation. But after the Qatar Games, the PBA will resume fulfilling its commitment, hopefully, all the way to the (Beijing) Olympics (in 2008)."

Eala said that he asked Reyes to look into the possibility of extending the PBA's participation in the Asian Games—if there would ever be at all.

Reyes had been tasked to draw up a three-year plan that would get the Philippines back to playing in the Olympics before all the leadership squabbles in the cage scene arose last year.

This was among the major points in the memorandum of agreement signed by the PBA with the Basketball Association of the Philippines before the falling out between the BAP and Philippine Olympic Committee occurred last year. The MOA did not include participation in the Asiad.

"What we will service are continental qualifying for the Olympics," Eala said.

The commissioner said that the PBA commitment stays as preparations – with Chot still at the helm – will resume at the end of the Philippine Cup next year.

Eala said that the target tournament, assuming that the Philippines does get reinstated to the Fiba, would be the Asian championships scheduled in Saitama, Japan, next year. The last shot at an Olympic slot would be the final qualifying event to be held in July 2008.

REYES

BUSTAMANTE

PAGULAYAN

MANALO

$3M TOURNEY

Bata, Django head crack Pinoy team

FRESH FROM WINNING THE INAUGURAL WORLD CUP OF POOL, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante will lead a 10-man Philippine cast in the richest ever tournament in pool history —the $3 million 2006 World Open IPT 8-Ball Championship set Sept. 2-10 in Reno, Nevada.

The other Filipinos in the 200-man main draw of the International Pool Tour tournament which stakes $500,000 to the winner are Marlon Manalo, US-based Jose Parica, IPT card holders Alex Pagulayan, Dennis Orcollo and Warren Kiamco and qualifiers Ramil Gallego, Santos Sambajon and Ronato Alcano.

Reyes and Bustamante, the 1-2 punch of the RP team, go into the tournament to be held at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino as hot favorites after humbling the American pair of former world champion Earl Strickland and former US Open winner Rodney Morris, 13-5, in the World Cup finals Sunday.

The two split the top prize of $60,000, the same amount Reyes pocketed in placing fourth in the 2006 North American IPT 8-Ball championship in Las Vegas, Nevada, last July.

The biggest winner among the Filipinos then was Manalo, who reached the final where he lost to German ace Thorsten Hohmann. Manalo picked up $99,000 while Hohmann bagged $350,000 from the total pot of $2 million. Another top earner was Orcollo who captured $85,000 for placing third.

This time the other major prizes are $150,000 for second place, $92,000 for third, $80,000 for fourth and $66,000 for fifth.

Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, the recent winner of the 2006 SMB Asian 9-ball tour Taiwan leg, failed to reach the tournament proper after bowing to American Ronnie Wiseman (10-4) in their duel for the last slot in the loser's bracket of the IPT qualification tournament held at the Pro-Tyme Billiards Hall in Orland Park, Illinois, recently. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Sherwood sweeps Fed League 1st round

STANDINGS (Win-Loss-Draw-Points)
Group 1: Forest Hills 2-0-2-6, Orchard 2-1-1-5, Wack Wack 2-1-1-5, Eastridge 1-2-1-4, Riviera 0-3-1-1,
Group 2: Sherwood Hills 4-0-0-9, Southwoods 2-1-1-6, Valley 2-2-0-4, Camp John Hay 0-2-1-1, Sta. Elena 0-3-0-0,
Group 3: Northwoods 2-1-1-6, Canlubang 1-0-3-5, CDC-Mimosa 2-2-0-4, Alabang 1-1-2-4, Highlands 0-2-2-2

THREE VICTORIES ON THE LAST hole and another on the 17th propelled Sherwood Hills to a 4-0 rout of Valley and a sweep of their first round matches in the Federation Golf League in various venues over the weekend.

Joey Arguelles buried a 40-foot putt for birdie on the last hole to lead his partnership with Erwin Vinluan to a pulsating 1 up win in scramble play that capped Sherwoods' blanking of their rivals for their fourth consecutive victory.

The anchor tandem of Thirdy Escano/Yuichiro Nakanishi and Jun Jun Plana/Ricky de Castro also took the greensomes and high-low duels by a close score while Larry Tojino/Jimmy Borromeo won in aggregate, 3&1, for an extra point that pushed Sherwood Hills ahead of Southwoods in Group II with 9 markers.

Southwoods was held to a 2-2 draw by sister team Camp John Hay.

Defending champion Forest Hills, Canlubang, Wack Wack and Northwoods also boosted their qualifying bids with 3-1 victories of their own.

Forest Hills needed the heroics of Jerry Uy and Juan Miguel Garcia to survive Eastridge; Sixto Sengson and Richard Joson won the greensomes on the 18th to carry Northwoods past Alabang; Canlubang outclassed Mimosa with three wins that didn't go past the 16th and Wack Wack banked on the pair of 1 up wins by John Gobing/Tetu Santos and Tootsie de Jesus/Perry Uy to stop Riviera.

Forest Hills regained the lead in Group I with 6 points on two wins and as many draws while Northwoods moved ahead in Group III also with 6 points on 2-1-1 win-loss-draw card.

Counting its draw with Alabang last week, Canlubang moved to second place behind Northwoods at five points on a win and three draws. Wack Wack tied with idle Orchard for second spot in Group II.

NCFP q'fying tourney set

GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA WILL lead seasoned and upcoming players in the 2006 National Chess Federation of the Philippines qualifying tournament for the Doha Asian Games in December.

The 11-round, Swiss System tournament starts on Sept. 1 and ends on Sept. 9 at the ground floor (south side, Entertainment Mall, near JB Music Store), Mall of Asia. Today is the deadline for registration.

Other favorites are GM Nelson Mariano II, International Masters Oliver Dimakiling and Darwin Laylo, 12-year old IM Wesley So, IM Ronald Dableo and NMs Mirabeau Maga, John Paul Gomez and Rolando Nolte and other titled and untitled players bidding for the right to carry the country's colors in the Asiad.

Only three slots are up for grabs for the Asiad meet: two for men and one for women.

Most of the players entered competed in the recent Malaysian Open where Dimakiling and Laylo placed second and fourth, respectively, while Paragua landed 10th.

Call NCFP director and tournament chief Willie Abalos at (0921) 6219898 or Ilann Perez at (0915) 5198676 for details.

Tagaytay to defend crown

TAGAYTAY CITY IS OUT TO DEFEND ITS TItle when the 2006 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship fires off Sept. 13 to 17 at the Gaisano Mall Atrium in Davao City.

James Infiesto, National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) 11 regional director, said Tagaytay of Mayor Bambol Toletino will be headed by Grandmaster Rogelio Antonio Jr. and Fide Master Wesley So.

The Tagaytay squad showed their readiness when they topped the recent Merdeka Chess Team Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Barangay-Alabang (Muntinlupa, the 2004 edition champion being backed by sportsman Victor Ulanday, is expected to give Tagaytay a run for its money. Leading the team will be Grandmaster Nelson Mariano and IM Oliver Dimakiling. GM Eugene Torre and NM Roland Nolte will be leading Muntinlupa City of Mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

Infiesto said 70 teams are seeing action in the event sanctioned by the National Congress of the Philippines headed by Congressman Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. Other prime movers are executive director lawyer Samuel Estimo, Davao City mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Philippines Sports Commission Chairman William "Butch" Ramirez and the DILG. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

US OPEN: Amelie Mauresmo of France returns a shot to Kristina Barrois of Germany at the US Open tennis tournament . *Story on A26.*

Butuan hosts Milo Marathon Sunday

BUTUAN CITY WILL AGAIN PLAY HOST TO the 30th National Milo Marathon when it stages a qualifying race on Sept. 3.

According to Ben Dacera, the new Milo local organizer, and local Nestle distributor Nardo Yu, more than 3,000 runners are expected to answer the starting gun to be fired by Butuan City Mayor Democrito Plaza.

Last year's 21K winners Genovevo Azarcon Jr. and Mary Ann Dojo are also expected to defend their respective titles against a bunch of young runners from the Caraga Region.

The top three finishers in the 21K race are qualified to join the 42K National Finals on Dec. 10 in Metro Manila where P75,000 each await the men's and women's champion.

Most of the participants in the race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar are enlisted in the 5K fun run and the Kiddies 3K age-group event.

The event being hosted by Butuan for the fourth time is being supported by the office of the City Mayor through the City Sports Council headed by Councilor Randolf Plaza, Butuan City Traffic Management Office and the PNP, PNRC - Butuan City Chapter, PNP Regional Medical Group, Radio Clean 10,Tranco Club DPWH, and Butuan City Water District. Security for the participants will be provided by the Police Regional Office 13 headed by Regional Director, Gen. Antonio Nanas.

Pol. Director Irving Malunday, PNP Deputy Director for Internal Affairs office who is in Butuan City for the Annual Regional Inspection of the Caraga region, is reportedly joining the race with the Regional Director.

Since Jan. 28, the MiloMarathon has gone to 16 cities that started in Kidapawan City crisscrossing the archipelago from Mindanao, Visayas and Luzon. Just last Sunday, the Marathon registered its biggest participation yet in Cebu City with 20,527 joining the run. To date, the Milo Marathon has attracted a total of 105,251 runners in its first 16 legs.

There are still 13 legs to go and Milo Sports Executive Pat Goc Ong and Milo Marathon national organizer Rudy Biscocho are confident they will meet the target of 182,000 runners nationwide. Top 10 finishers in the three races will get trophies, medals and prizes totaling P159,000.

Lions rip . . .

From page A23

Quarters: 22-21, 41-41, 59-60, 79-77.

Second Game (Srs)

JOSE RIZAL 89—Pradas 19, Dedicatoria 19, Sena 14, Cagoco 12, Nocom 8, Wilson 7, Hayes 4, Bucao 2, Fenequito 2, Se 2, Echane 0, Caspe 0.

SAN SEBASTIAN 76 — Viray 21, Bulawan 10, Vicente 9, Aquino 9, De Leon 8, Lindaya 7, Raymundo 5, Ballesteros 2, Juan 2, Sagad 2, Quiamco 1, Delgado 0, Najorda 0.

Quarters: 13-17, 31-42, 65-60, 89-76.

Third Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 73—Escobal 17, Aljamal 17, Menor 12, Ekwe 7, Tecson 5, Evangelista 5, Angeles 4, Maggay 4, Taganas 2, Antonio 0, Espinosa 0, Taupa 0.

MAPUA 56 —Acosta 12, Mazo 8, Gonzales 7, Co 7, Tiongco 6, Dela Pena 6, Migraso 3, Del Rosario 2, Guillermo 2, Pascual 1, Cinco 0, Palomique 0, Sumalinog 0.

Quarters: 19-14, 40-24, 55-42, 73-56.

New Era U edges AMA, stays alive

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JEFF DE GUZMAN FIRED NINE OF HIS GAME-high 23 points in the fourth quarter, including two charities in the last eight seconds, as New Era University scored a come-from-behind 80-76 win over AMA Computer yesterday in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the UM Gym.

Coming off a three-game absence due to nose injury, De Guzman ignited that late wind-up by banging a three-pointer in the last 18 seconds to give the Hunters a 78-76 lead which stayed.

AMA top gun Chito Jaime then went strong to the hoop but his attempt got swatted by Ryan Lapid. De Guzman capped his performance by getting the loose ball before Daryl Franco fouled him and sent him to the line with eight seconds to go.

The win pumped life into the Hunters' dying campaign as they posted a 5-5 record in the second-round eliminations, tying idle Centro Escolar and University of Manila.

The Titans fell to 8-4 for third place behind leaders STI (9-2) and San Sebastian-Cavite (8-1).

Renz Tengco provided solid help for the Hunters with 20 points, while Jerome Billones chipped in 11 points.

The Titans, who tasted their second straight loss, got 17 points from Jaime and 13 from Bong Abac.

The scores:

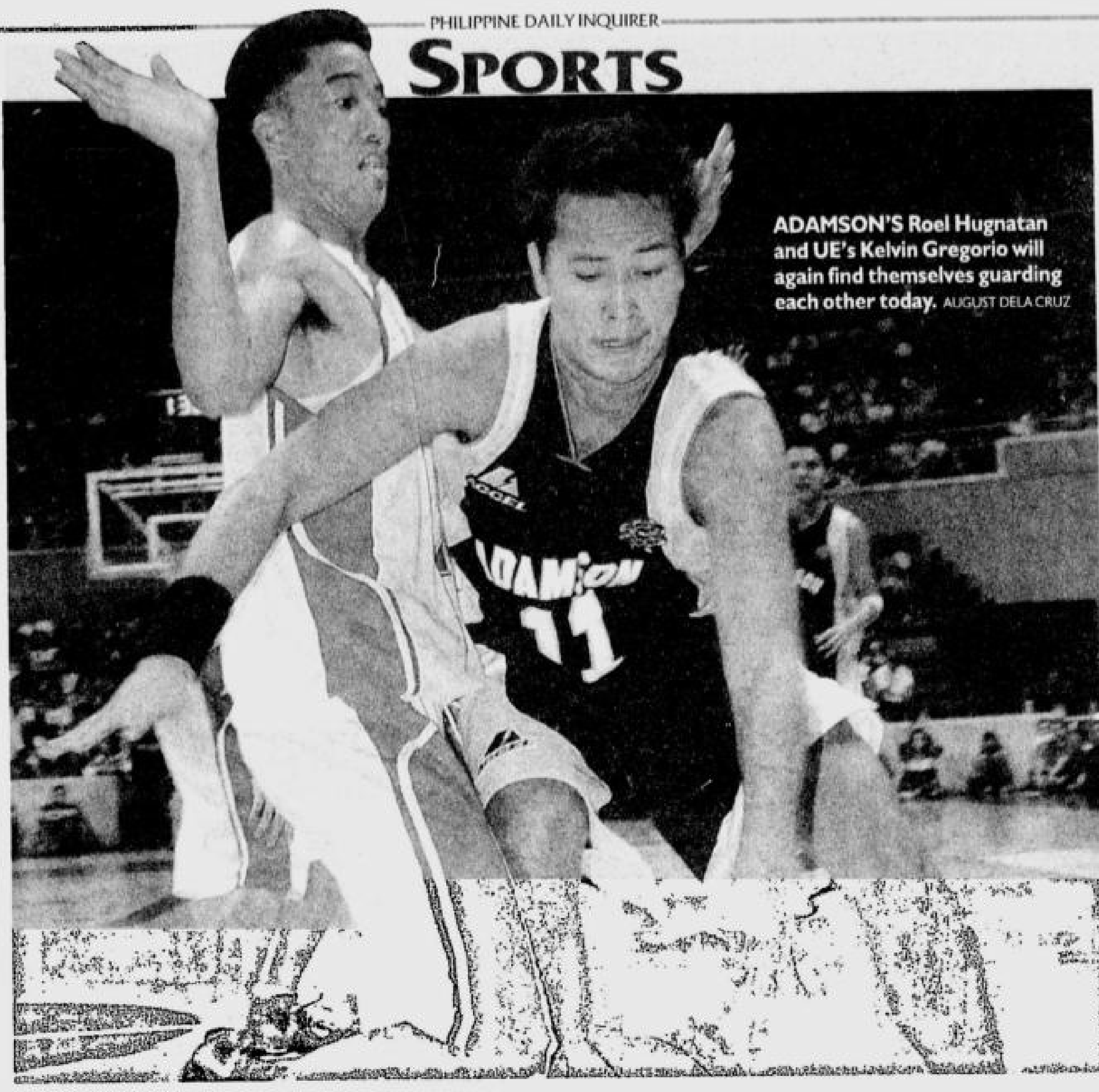
NEW ERA 80—De Guzman 23, Tengco 20, Billones 11, Lapid 6, Perlas 5, Alastre 5, Ibay 3, Maynes 3, Mabigat 2, Capistrano 2, Naguit 0.

AMACU 76—Jaime 17, Abac 13, Padilla 9, Vergara 6, Galang 6, De Guzman 5, Gabica 2, Suarez 0, Franco 0, Edralin 0, Dela Peña 0.

Quarters: 15-14, 32-37, 59-57, 80-76.

Archery bares new program

THE NATIONAL ARCHERY ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines unveiled its comprehensive development program that will meet the needs of its athletes. NAAP president Lenora Fe Brawner recently discussed with lawyer Ariel Inton Jr., head of the national sports associations' committee on ways and means, and lawyer Mario Andres and Joey Inciong a plan to meet the archers' financial needs in training and competitions and provide adequate exposure in the international archery scene. "Archery is a sport of precision where Filipinos have the potential to excel in international competition," said Brawner, who plans to tap the corporate, government, NGOs and individual sponsors to support archery.



ADAMSON'S Roel Hugnatan and UE's Kelvin Gregorio will again find themselves guarding each other today. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Warriors seek Final 4 bonus versus Falcons

GAMES TODAY *(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)*
2 p.m.—UP vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs Adamson (Srs)

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST WARriors try to secure the twice-to-beat semifinal bonus when they tangle with the Adamson Falcons today in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Warriors will try to move closer to the league-leading Ateneo Eagles at 4 p.m., right after the Santo Tomas Tigers attempt to strengthen their Final Four bid versus the University of the Philippines Maroons at 2 o'clock.

Although slightly favored, the Warriors are expected to pull out all stops as they pursue another lofty goal.

"If we can go all the way up to the No. 1 slot, it will be better," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren. "We're not going to settle just because we're already at number two. We're not going to relax."

"Right now, our game has picked up compared to the first round," said Pumaren. "We've been playing good defense, both half court and full court."

Although the Warriors routed the Falcons in their initial encounter, 72-57, Pumaren cited the dominating performance of Falcons center Ken Bono in his last outing.

Bono exploded with 33 points and 12 rebounds against the Maroons last Saturday to keep the Falcons in the running for their first Final Four berth.

"They're still around, they can still go up to number three," said Pumaren of the Falcons, the only team that hasn't reached the Final Four since the format was introduced in 1994.

Tigers coach Pido Jarencio has been just as confident as Pumaren after halting the Ateneo Eagles' eight-game winning streak, 88-80, in overtime last Sunday.

Bucking a crippled lineup, Jarencio drew big games from rookie slotman Jervy Cruz and Allan Evangelista.

"We lost our ace players, but this team has potential," he said. "There will always be someone stepping up."

The Tigers, who jumped to third place at 5-5, have been missing the services of main man Jemal Vizcarra, top scorer Jojo Duncil, and veterans Anthony Espiritu and Jun Cortez due to various illnesses and injuries.

"We were never complete, so we're just working on what we have," said Jarencio.

The Maroons, who nipped the Tigers, 94-92, in the first round, are out of the running in the Final Four after losing five straight games. *Jasmine W. Payo*

UAAP mark: Tigers' main driving force

By Marc Anthony Reyes

OF ALL THE TEAMS THAT CAME OUT AND tried to stop Ateneo's scorching run in the UAAP, University of Santo Tomas had the biggest motivation.

The Tigers just hate other schools building streaks.

Nothing personal against the Eagles, but the Tigers simply do not want any school to come even within two blocks of what they accomplished 13 years ago.

It was in 1993 when a powerhouse UST squad powered by the likes of Dennis Espino, Rey Evangelista, Edmund Reyes, Chris Cantonjos, Siot Tanquingcen, Rudolph Belmonte and Patrick Fran authored a 14-game sweep of the UAAP, capped by a methodical dismantling of the Kenneth Duremdes-led Adamson Falcons.

"That was one of our motivations," admitted UST team manager Clarence Aytona.

Crippled by injuries and various ailments, UST was the school least likely to halt the Ateneo juggernaut more so after the Eagles clobbered the Tigers, 114-78, last Aug. 6.

Still missing the services of four top players—starters Jemal Vizcarra and Jojo Duncil and top reserves Jun Cortez and Anthony Espiritu, the Tigers seemed helpless in stopping the Eagles from soaring to a school record nine straight wins.

But with a piece of their history under siege, a different pack of Tigers faced the Eagles last week. Although they needed extra time to pull it off, the 88-80 victory was all that mattered for UST.

"Our best player (Jemal Vizcarra) is out of the season and three of our go-to guys are in the hospital," said Aytona. "We just had pretty much ourselves to get by. Maybe that was one of the reasons we were 'suicidal' in the hardcourt."

And they had a record to protect, too.

Almost lost in the din of the shocker was another goal that UST achieved with the victory.

"We really needed to win that game to be able to gain position in the Final Four," said Aytona, adding that before the game, the coaching staff, managers and UST priests sat down with the entire squad and talked about the importance of the match and the obstacles they were going to face.

At the same time, things have also started to look rosy for the Tigers, who haven't won a title since 1996, the end of a four-title run that was kick-started by that 14-0 sweep.

Duncil got out of the UST hospital, with Espiritu and Cortez making speedy recoveries from typhoid fever.

But the UST doctors are already taking action, giving all the players with anti-typhoid vaccine.

"They believe all the players have contracted the virus already, and it is just [going through an] incubation period," he said.

Dacanay keeps faith with Pasa

By Jasmine W. Payo

CAN A HOMEGROWN SWIMming talent excel in the international stage?

While most of the country's top swimmers have taken the global route, collegiate standout Luica Dacanay has been putting her faith into the local sports program.

"I had plans to go the States, but our program in swimming here has improved a lot," said Dacanay, a silver medalist in the 400-meter individual medley in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

With the success of US-trained swimmers—from former swimming sensations Eric Buhain and Akiko Thompson to current crops Miguel Molina, Jackie Pangilinan and Miguel Mendoza—Dacanay knows it may take some time to prove that locally trained athletes can be just as good.

The 21-year-old Molina, for instance, emerged as the most bemedaled Filipino in the last SEA Games.

Boosted by years of training at the University of California-Berkeley, Molina bagged three golds and a silver in individual events and a bronze medal in the relay.

DACANAY: We need exposure trips to be competitive. RPSPORTS.COM

"I haven't asked them how different their training program is, but I think there's a gap because they're getting more exposure," said Dacanay. "They get to swim in more competitions."

Dacanay, though, has been making waves in the collegiate scene before settling for a runner-up finish in the SEA Games.

The 20-year-old tanker bagged the 2005 Athlete of the Year plum in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) after clinching seven gold medals—two in record-breaking fashion—in the women's swimming competition last season.

Dacanay set a new mark in the 200m backstroke (2 minutes and 27.82 seconds) and in the 200m butterfly (2:24.95). She also ruled in the 50m and 100m butterfly, 200m and 400m individual medley and 400m freestyle.

Last June, Dacanay dominated the Philippine Olympic Festival by securing golds in the 400m individual medley, 200m backstroke, 100m freestyle and 50m freestyle and a silver in the 100m freestyle.

"We just need more exposure trips to be competitive," said Dacanay, a Family Life and Child Development junior student at the University of the Philippines. "But Pasa (Philippine Amateur Swimming Association) has been very supportive. They've also been sending us abroad for training."

Such programs, she claims, have been benefiting local swimmers.

"I think we're starting to get good exposure," she said. "Before the SEA Games, we trained in China. We were only there for three months, but that worked wonders for us."

PNSA taps 12 jr shooters for training

TWELVE JUNIOR SHOOTERS, including three ladies, will undergo formal training starting Monday, Sept. 4 at the PSC range in Fort Bonifacio.

"They have the potentials to become future competitors in local and international events," said Philippine National Shooting Association president Art Macapagal of the 12 youngsters who shone last week at the start of PNSA's junior marksmanship seminar sponsored by Thermax and P.B. Dioniso & Co. Inc.

The top three finishers in four different categories, these shooters and their respective scores:

Ladies—Jarelle Matamorosa, 261; Carina dela Victoria, 256; and Sasa Hermoso, 255. **11 years old and below**—Manuel Villamera, 242; John Patrick Garcia, 236; and Sebastian Pascual, 234. **12 to 16 years old**—Nathan Ecarma, 270; Cedric Cinco, 263; and Jovan Torres, 254; **17 and above**—Anton Eleazar, 274; Nathan Charles Ecarma, 271; and Gesmund Ballecer, 265.

Perennial national champion and PNSA pistol committee chair Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla said that these young marksmen will be supervised by national coaches Andres Maer and Bert Teyab when they start firing at 1:30 this Sunday.

"It's good that we have discovered fresh talents," said Padilla, who started his career at 10 under the tutelage of his father, Olympian Mariano "Tom" Ong. "Through this (PNSA) program, we hope to develop and hone their skills."

Macapagal assured the young aspirants that the marksmanship seminar will continue "because we will continue to look for new shooters. Learning how to shoot is a lifetime knowledge; learn it now and you can use it all your life."

The other participants in the first seminar were Marga Villar, Angelyn Ariate, Aaron Ariate, Vergel Cabanban, Lawrence Tan, Earl Mananquil, Ramon Mosqueda, Albert Dizon, Cenon Romeo Edrada, Jose Antonio Hernandez, Jose Crisanto Mosqueda and Jeff Randell Angara.

SPORTSWATCH

Lyceum, CSA spikers score twin-kill

THE LYCEUM INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FLAUNTED ITS PROWESS IN THE volleyball competitions of the 7th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) as it swept both the men's and women's competitions at the Palaruang La Salle in Dasmariñas, Cavite. The Lyceum Matrix men's spikers crushed St. Francis of Assisi College Systems-Bacoor, 25-18, 25-14, 25-13, before their women's counterparts followed suit with a 25-8, 25-18, 25-13 drubbing of San Pedro College of Business Administration. Also scoring a double-kill was Colegio San Agustin-Biñan over PCU-Dasma. The CSA boys' team won, 25-20, 25-13, 25-23, while its girls' team triumphed, 25-16, 25-17, 25-17.

Superal posts longest drive

JUNGOLF STANDOUT WOLEN JUAN SUPERAL REGISTERED 274 YARDS IN the 17-years-and-below division of the Dunlop Longest Drive Challenge qualifying last Saturday at the Orchard Golf and Country Club. Other qualifiers were Grace Superal, who ruled the women's open with 214 yards, Raymund Vasquez, who topped the men's regular division with 270 yards, and Louie Garcia, who scored 232 in the men's seniors (50 years and above). The last two qualifying rounds will be held at the Manila Southwoods (Sept. 2) and Villamor Golf and Country Club (Sept. 7). Qualifiers will advance to the grand finals Sept. 12 at Wack Wack.

12th Gary Lising golf Sept. 11

THE BIGGEST NAMES IN ENTERTAINMENT, BUSINESS AND POLITICS GET TOgether on Sept. 11 to see action in the 12th staging of the Gary Lising Golf Classic at the Sta. Elena layout in Laguna. Former president Fidel V. Ramos banners the list of participants teeing off shotgun style starting at 7 a.m. Show biz personalities like Richard Gomez, Anjo Yllana, Nadia Montenegro and songstress Vernie Varga and Rustan's CEO Rico Tantoco, Kitchie Benedicto and Ace Barbers have confirmed participation in the 18-hole event.

LGBA derby returns at Araneta

THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) 5-STAG DERBY SEries resumes at the Araneta Coliseum today with 142 matches. The first fight unfolds at 10 a.m. in the event sponsored by Thunderbird, Lakpue, Asvet, Purina, B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador. Set to field straight five stags are 2005 LGBA Breeder of the Year Sonny Lagon, former World Slasher Cup champ William Go, Arman Santos, Joel Fernando, Ram Lopez, Bobby Doromal, Peping Cojuangco, Joseph Chua and Rep. Larry Wacnang. Co-champs in last Tuesday's opening leg were Sangre Guerrero of Benjie Lim, BMJ Mimi Red I of Raffy Campos, Edwin Aranez, Boy Gamilla and Mimi Itchon and AP Top Gun of Edwin Ramos.

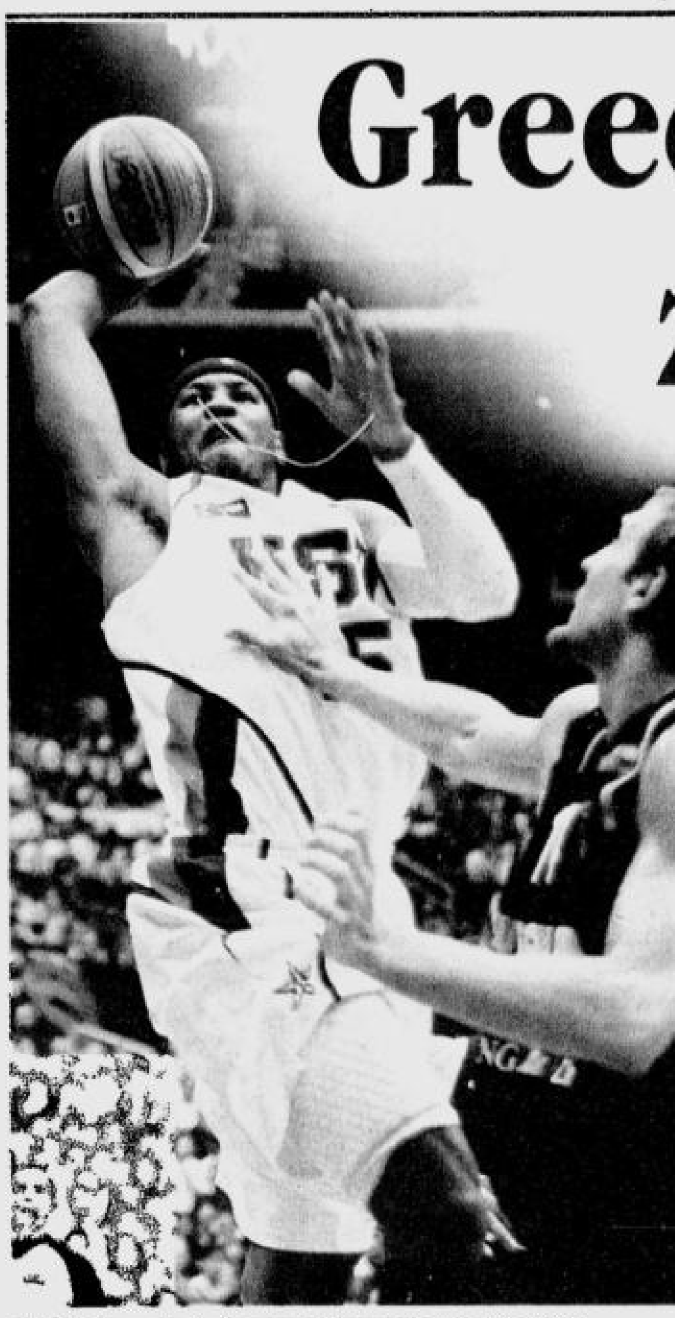
'Showdown' at Roligon set Sept. 2

WITH MORE THAN 100 CONFIRMED ENTRIES AS OF YESTERDAY, THE HIGHLY fancied "Ray Showdown 6-stag derby" finally unfolds at Roligon Mega Cockpit on Sept. 2, 5 and 7. The event will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday due to the big number of entries, said promoters Danny Ty and Romero Yu who also hosted last year's 105-entry "Showdown" stagfest. Entries must be submitted tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 1 at Roligon office, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Weight limits are from 1.7 kgs to 2.1 kgs only. For inquiries, call 833-1638 and 852-9812 or 0917-8277484. Screening and wingbanding will also be held at Roligon tomorrow for walk-in participants, especially those from the provinces.

Fastest Win event today at LPC

COCKERS AND BREEDERS FROM CAVITE, LAGUNA, MUNTINLUPA, PARAÑAque, Pasay and Las Piñas compete in Las Piñas Coliseum's P170,000 Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan at 10 a.m. today. The following prizes are at stake: fastest win champion, P15,000; second, P10,000; third, P8,000; fourth, P7,000; fifth to 10th, P5,000. Each fight winner will also receive P1,000, according to hosts Edward and Jason Sacramento. Meanwhile, former Sen. Ramon Revilla ruled the 115-entry Las Piñas 6-stag derby week after his entry, Cavite Dec. 4, 6 and 8 posted a 6-0 (win-loss) record. Runners–up were Benjie Lim (Poker Tour), Mayor Nene Aguilar (Black Gold), R. Pineda (2.5 M Rambulan SJC) and Rudy Albano (Mulawin). For inquiries, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

SPORTS



USA'S Carmelo Anthony challenges Germany's Dirk Nowitzki. The Americans and the Germans were playing for a semifinal slot at presstime. AP

Greece lightning zaps France

Sets semis duel vs US

SAITAMA, JAPAN—Greece held France to its lowest point total of the tournament in a 73-56 victory Wednesday that moved it into the semifinals for the third time in the last four World championships.

Greece (7-0) advanced to the final four and will meet the United States on Friday.

Carmelo Anthony scored 10 of his 19 points in the third quarter and the United States went on to beat Germany, 85-65.

LeBron James added 13 points for the United States, which broke away from a one-point halftime lead by using a flurry of steals and blocks to outscore Germany 16-2 over a nearly six-minute span in the third period.

Entering the quarterfinals, Spain, Argentina and the United States were the undefeated teams garnering almost all of the attention. Like them, Greece didn't lose any of its first six games, and its seventh win may have been its most impressive.

"This game showed our team can control the games and play the way we need to play to win games," Greece coach Panagiotis Yannakis said. "Basketball is not only dribbling and shooting. It is about defense. My team can put ego out of the team."

Antonis Fotsis had 14 points, including two big jumpers midway through the second half. Greece, which finished fourth in 1994 and 1998 and didn't qualify in 2002, has been one of the better defensive teams in the tournament.

France (4-3), which came in averaging 70 points per game, struggled from the start against Greece, managing only 24 points in trailing by 10 at halftime.

"We were careless at the beginning of the game but we were not by ourselves," France coach Claude Bergeaud said. "With their pressure they found easy shots." *AP*

Hatfield returns, agrees to one-year deal with Kings

By Francis Ochoa

HE SHOWED UP AT THE Greenmeadows practice facility in civilian clothes Tuesday. The moment he came in playing gear yesterday, he made it official.

Barangay Ginebra is now one of the toughest teams on paper.

Rudy Hatfield joined his new teammates at Barangay Ginebra yesterday, transforming the Kings instantly into a powerhouse squad in the coming Philippine Basketball Association season.

Now, if only Jong Uichico can get his collection of stars to read from the same page of the playbook.

"Games are won on the court, not on paper," said Uichico. "If we can get all of the players to sacrifice a bit for the sake of the team, we should be able to compete every night."

Certainly, the addition of Hatfield boosts the Kings, who already boast a lineup that includes Erik Menk, Mark Caguioa, Jayjay Helterbrand, Romel Adducul, Andy Seigle, Rafi Reavis and Billy Mamaril.

"He's in pretty good shape," Uichico said of Hatfield. "After all, he is coming off a fireman's program [in Detroit] and when you go through that, you have to be in good physical shape."

Hatfield has all the time to do just that after doing away with one of the few distractions surrounding his transfer to Ginebra. The 6-foot-3 workhorse agreed in principle to a one-year contract with the Kings.

"He wants to keep his options open at the end of the season," said Ginebra team manager Allan Caidic. "After all, he is coming from a layoff so he wants to see how he is at the end of the year."

"But negotiations went smoothly and he was so easy to talk to," said Caidic, who did not divulge the terms of the deal.

Ginebra acquired the rights to Hatfield in a blockbuster deal that gave the Kings Mamaril and Reavis. But there were speculations as to whether he would come back at all to the Philippines, having decided on a fireman's career in Detroit, where he grew up.

Uichico quoted Hatfield as saying that he returned "because of [my] love and passion for the game."

Caidic, on the other hand, revealed that Hatfield was also excited about teaming up with Menk again.

AFTER RAIN-OUT

Federer, Nadal, Sharapova up next

NEW YORK—TOP SEED ROGER FEDerer and No. 2 Rafael Nadal are in action at the US Open on Wednesday with players, organizers and spectators alike hoping for better weather.

Federer, gunning for his third straight US Open title, will play Taipei's Yeu-Tzuoo Wang in the first round, and archrival Nadal faces Australian wild card Mark Philippoussis.

No matches were completed on Tuesday after heavy rain turned into mist by nightfall.

Top seed Amelie Mauresmo had trouble with German qualifier Kristina Barrois before rain halted their match.

Mauresmo won the first set, 6-1, but trailed, 5-2, in the second when the players were forced off court and they will return to Arthur Ashe Stadium on Wednesday.

Third seed Maria Sharapova and number eight Martina Hingis will be in action for the first time in the tournament.

Sharapova takes on Michaella Krajicek of the Netherlands in one of the marquee night matches at Ashe Stadium, and Hingis faces Shuai Peng of China in Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Meanwhile, it's probably fair to say Nikolai Valuev is one of the biggest tennis fans on the planet.

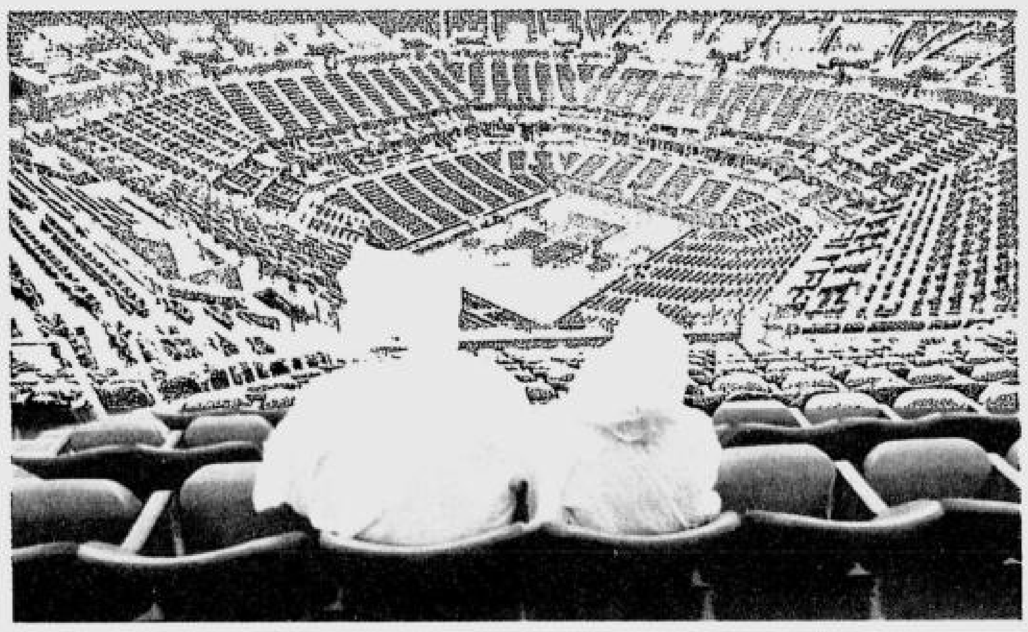
The 7-foot, 321-pound (2.14-meter, 144-kilogram) Russian, the World Boxing Association heavyweight champion, paid a visit to the US Open on Tuesday, stopping by the players' lounge to look for countrymen Dmitry Tursunov and Sharapova.

"He's the Jolly Red Giant," the never-at-a-loss-for-words boxing promoter Don King said.

Asked if he wields a racket once in a while, King said: "Do I play tennis? Man, I had one of the baddest overhead rights of anyone. Bam!"

Does he have any ideas for how to better promote tennis?

"I just wouldn't single out tennis," King said. "I could better promote anything." *Reuters, AP*



RAINS—and the hush of an empty stadium—fall on the US Open Tuesday, as two spectators stubbornly wait for action to continue. All games, though, were rescheduled. AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Thursday, August 31, 2006

Ang kwento ng panget mas pinaganda
Letty la mas fea
iDOL ABC
mon-sat 6pm
Premieres Aug 1
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	S.O.S		Shorts		Big News	Worst Case Scenario	Philippine Idol Exclusive
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Pinoy Dream Academy	A Love To Kill		Bandila	SOCO	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	The Amazing Race Family Edition				Fear Factor (Season VI)		The Contender (Season II)		Supernatural (Season I)		Hex (Season 2)	
Cartoon Network	Pixie & Dixie/ My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinema One		Mga Syanong Paraiso				Hugot Sa Langit				Bona				Dama, Ang Pagbabalik				Noon At Ngayon	
Cinemax		[illegible] (3:15PM)				Running Cool (4:50PM)			Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult (6:35PM)			Friday The 13th: A New Beginning			The Rundown			Scam (11:15PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Global Challenges	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Bones		Treasure Hunters		E-Ring	
Discovery Channel		Psychic Witness		Building The Biggest		Raw Nature		Deadliest Catch		Top Tens		Building The Ultimate	Connect	Mythbusters		Kings Of Construction		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-[illegible] Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Monster Allergy	Lizzie Mcguire	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Asian X Games '06 - Show 2						X-Games 12 - Day4				Sportscenter Asia		Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel			Sportscenter Asia
ETC		American Dreams		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Nanny 911		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Special Programming		EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Asawa Mo Man Ang Langit	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye II		Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine II		Family Law		Spooks		Wire In The Blood		Regenesis	
HBO			Are We There Yet? (3:45PM)				Troop Beverly Hills				Christmas With The Kranks (7:25PM)			Deadwood 10: Mister Wu		Deadwood 11: Jewel's Boot Is Made For Walking	Deadwood 12: Sold Under Sin (10:45PM)		Shark Tale (11:45PM)
Hero TV	Amdriver	Angelic Layer	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	BDaman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Amdriver	Angelic Layer	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arris		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arris	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Experience		Heat		X-Men	The Batman	Experience		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	Distraction	Banzai	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Good Finds	Martha		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines		Punk'd	Laguna Beach	Handpicked Kyla	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	Ultrasound Kyla	TRL		Punk'd	Laguna Beach	Rex in the City	Sessions Kyla	MTV Hits	Rockola
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Wild Orphans	National Geographic Specials		Malaysia Specials: Petronas Towers		Malaysia Specials: Big Foot		Top 5 - Hurricane		WOW! Creatures Of Island Kingdoms		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Malaysia Specials: Petronas Towers		Malaysia Specials: Big Foot	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Asia			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Ulan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Ulan		Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ [illegible] Treasure/ Wayside	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Bertud Ng Putik				Sa Akin ang Paghihiganti				Kuya Kong Siga				Captain Barbell				Largado
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Family Zoo		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Poker Hour
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng [illegible]		Friends Again		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports				Tennis, WTA Acura Classic Finals				Boxing, Vernon Forrest vs. Ike Quartey						WNBA Action	GWS 34-2006	Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Women's Greece	
Sports Plus				Raceworld		World Poker Tour Hollywood Home				Nopi Tunervision 11	Golf Today	World's Greatest Auto Show Geneva		World Game		Auto Focus		U.S. Open '06 Day4	
Star Movies	Uptown Girls			The 6th Day (4:05PM)				The Aviator (6:10PM)						Garfield The Movie			Racing Stripes		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova		The Office	Arrested Development	The Drew Carey Show	Sons & Daughters	Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	Two & A Half Men	Joey	Stacked	Grey's Anatomy		News Central	[illegible] (10:45PM)		MYXlog

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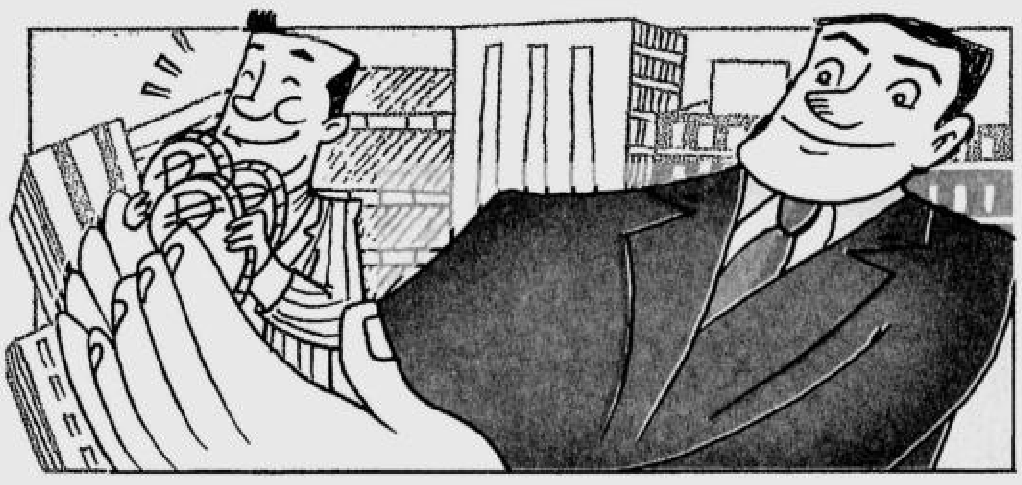
14084
A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Peso hits 6-month high of 50.945 to $1



Investor sentiment on RP improving

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY BREACHED THE KEY 50:$1 barrier to close at a six-month high of 50.945 against the dollar as investors cheered the country's improving economic fundamentals and the expected tailend of the United States' interest rate increases.

"The peso continues to appreciate on the market's positive sentiment about the Philippines due to better-than-projected fiscal numbers and an anticipated good economic growth," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters yesterday.

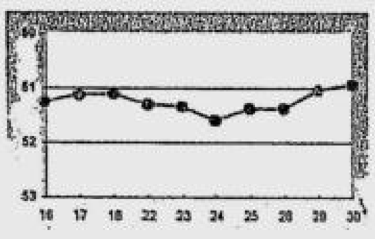
"Strong regional currencies due partly to market expectations that the US will pause in its tightening cycle are also contributing to the peso's gains," he said.

In previous months, investors shied away from Asian emerging

PESO/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.945 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 30, 2006

Stocks end lower

STOCKS SLIPPED IN A TEPID SESSION YESterday, with much of the action centered on the prospect of a merger between commercial

STOCKS/ B2

Demand for independent directors booming in RP

But good governance remains elusive

By Daxim L. Lucas

(First of two parts)

"NONOY" SAYS HE IS NOT A "YES MAN."

He believes that it is for this very same characteristic that he is being hired by one of the country's most controversial businessmen to join the upper echelons of one of the country's most established firms.

Nonoy is Antonino L. Alindogan Jr. Yesterday, he was elected as "independent director" of Philippines Airlines, owned by tobacco and beer magnate Lucio C. Tan.

A few weeks ago, Alindogan was also elected as independent director of House of Investments, the holding firm of taipan Alfonso T. Yuchengco.

He admits that he makes a decent living out of being an independent director for some prominent companies, but is quick to point out that he is "not making a killing" since he earns only what a normal board director would earn.

Other semi-retired business leaders, however, may disagree with Alindogan on just how lucrative the job of an independent director can be.

Indeed, this nascent industry for board members who will advocate minority shareholders' rights is fast becoming the enclave of a small group of "trophy" directors who view the industry as a second lease on their corporate lives.

Weak governance culture

A study released last year by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Institute—the think tank of the Manila-based multilateral lender—suggests that a significant number of corporate failures were caused, or aided at some point, by poor corporate governance.

That is, corporate leaders failed to ensure that they or their managers pursued the interests of the company and its stakeholders.

The study goes as far as to blame the outbreak of the 1997 East Asian financial crisis on the poor quality of corporate governance in the region.

"Poor corporate governance is widely viewed as one of the structural weaknesses that were responsible for the ... Asian crisis," the ADB paper said, adding that the problem was especially true in family-controlled firms.

"In companies controlled by family owners, these owners could pursue their private interests relatively easily and often at the expense of minority shareholders and the firms' profits," it added.

From this "structural flaw" was born the worldwide drive to improve the transparency and responsibilities of company boards to their shareholders.

In the Philippines, the reforms began in 2001 at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) under the leadership of then Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura, just after a tussle with the failed Urban Bank, which he believes was itself brought down by weak governance practices.

The BSP-initiated reforms have since been adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission and ordered implemented across the local corporate landscape.

One of the most visible aspects of this re-

DEMAND/ B2

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PAL posts banner year on 63% profit increase

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES EARNED A profit of $28.7 million on revenues of $1.24 billion for its fiscal year that ended last March 31, 2006, PAL chair Lucio C. Tan and president Jaime J. Bautista reported to the flag carrier's shareholders yesterday.

The profit represented a 63-percent increase over the previous fiscal year's $17.6 million. It was the airline's most profitable year in more than a decade. PAL last reported a surplus exceeding $20 million in 1993, when it booked $40.5 million.

"It was a banner year for PAL as the troubles that confronted the industry fell short of upsetting its bottom line," Tan and Bautista said in a statement to stockholders during their annual meeting.

For the first time, PAL reported its financial statements in U.S. dollars, the airline's functional currency. The move, which complies with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, aligns PAL's reporting process with the global nature of its business, removing the distortion caused by exchange rate movements, the airline said.

Revenues expanded by $160 million or 15 percent on account of strong performances by both passenger and cargo businesses. Virtually all key performance indices, including those measuring capacity, traffic carriage and load factor, improved from year-ago levels.

PAL was buoyed by economic recovery in its biggest markets--the Philippines, the United States and Japan--which spurred air travel in these countries, as well as by inroads in booming new markets, such as China. In November 2005, the airline launched service to Beijing, its third point on the mainland.

However, expenses also jumped by $153 million or 14 percent to $1.22 billion, due largely to the unprecedented rise in the price of aviation fuel. The benchmark Mean of Platt's Singapore (MOPS) averaged $71.50 a barrel compared to $49.82 just a year earlier, an increase of 44 percent.

"While the airline industry anticipated oil price spikes, having grown accustomed to such, it never expected fuel prices to hit shockingly high levels during the period," the statement said.

Despite this, PAL managed to keep expenses in check by cutting costs and improving systems. For instance, the airline's revenue-management, reservations and ticketing systems are now configured to drive down distribution costs. Electronic ticketing is available on 70 percent of PAL flights, including all domestic routes.

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Stocks ...

From page B1

banks Equitable PCI and Banco de Oro.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 5.91 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,296.78, after rising 1.2 percent over the past two sessions.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. contributed mainly to the loss, shedding one percent to P1,905 after rising 2.1 percent earlier in the week.

Equitable PCI, the country's third-largest lender by assets, climbed 5.3 percent to P79, while Banco de Oro, ranked seventh in the industry by assets, advanced 4.3 percent to P36.50.

On Tuesday, Banco de Oro parent SM Investments said it would make a tender offer, together with its affiliates, for all Equitable PCI shares on top of the 34 percent it already holds in the bank.

Analysts said SM's offer could be the solution to the stalemate involving the much-anticipated merger of Banco de Oro and Equitable PCI—a union that could create the country's largest bank by assets.

SM Investments rose 0.5 percent to P218. Another SM-controlled commercial bank, China Bank, rose 0.7 percent to P700.

Gainers led decliners 59 to 35, while 57 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

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Something is croaking

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TESSIE SY FOR PRESIDENT!

Okay, that's an exaggeration. But it nonetheless describes what I, as one of the millions of members of the pension funds SSS and GSIS, feel about the recent surprise move of Tessie Sy, the heir apparent of SM group founder Henry Sy, for control of the country's third biggest bank EPCIB. To me, it was the best move of Tessie Sy so far.

The SM group announced that it would pay cash for all of the EPCIB shares at P92 per, payable in instalment over two years.

For one, the new price was a big jump from the P43.50 per that the group earlier gave for the SSS-owned shares in the bank, and it beat the EPCIB valuation of P56 a share that the group brought up in the "share swap" merger proposal with Banco de Oro.

Still, the operative word now is CASH! (Cash is what all banks such as BPI, Union Bank, Metrobank, and even the old Equitable paid for in acquiring other banks.)

With that single move, Tessie Sy answered my prayers for a knight (okay, a really rich knight) to save the day for SSS and GSIS members in their investment in EPCIB.

Obviously, such a cash buyout was also the desire of GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia, the Cebu hometown boy who was only willing to unload the GSIS shares in EPCIB if he would not have to worry about the Ombudsman.

And so what did Garcia call the SM group announcement again—"vindication?"

Still, based on media reports, I detect hesitancy from the head of that other pension fund, none other than SSS president Corazon dela Paz.

Let's call it "caution." Dela Paz said the decision on whether or not the SSS would sell the EPCIB shares at the price offered by the SM group was up to the commission. Besides, she pointed out that the SSS shares were still involved in court cases, and the SSS had other interested buyers who might offer a higher price. Or not!

She may have valid points, but the court cases were all about the pricing of the shares. If the SSS would already get the best—again, the BEST—price from the SM group, the court cases would just be good for the lawyers.

On her last point, nevertheless, Dela Paz hinted at the possibility of a higher bid. Indeed, stock market analysts noted that, at P92 per share payable in two years, the "net present value" of the SM group offer is only P80 a share.

That, according to the analysts, may not be attractive enough to small shareholders in the stock market, particularly because of the two-year term. Union Bank, for instance, in acquiring I-Bank recently, offered instant cash.

Something else must be cooking if De La Paz has other interested buyers. For sure, the buyer will want to buy out everybody, including the SM group. But is the group willing to sell at the same terms it offers? For this is how it is done under the two-way bid system in the capital market. The SM group must be willing to sell its EPCIB shares at the same terms—at P92 per share payable in two years.

Or another loud croaking bidding war is even possible, if it is not already in the offing. One of the taipans (we shall hide him under the name of "Buyer B," although his real name is John Gokongwei Jr.) is also talking to Garcia of the GSIS.

What if, to expound on the views of Dela Paz, just by some stroke of luck among SSS and GSIS members, the two pension funds—together as one—put their 40-percent-plus interest in EPCIB up for sale in a public bidding?

That is the only thing that can now stand in the way of the "tender offer" from Tessie Sy and the SM group.

* * *

ALL ALONG, according to BCDA president Narciso Abaya, the BCDA took the position that the contract of Bulk Handlers, the private operator of the seaport at Poro Point (La Union), was binding and valid contract.

Thus, when the DENR regional office ordered the port to stop operations, the BCDA asked help from the PPA, simply to keep the port running by preventing violence between the warring Bulk Handlers and PPMC (the BCDA subsidiary in the Poro Point venture).

That's the only reason for the presence of the police force, according to Abaya.

To his mind, the BCDA also could not order PPMC to back off, for instance, by recognizing the validity of the contract, thus allowing Bulk Handlers itself to continue to operate the port, because PPMC is independent from the BCDA.

But did all that work? As far as I know, Poro Point is still closed to business. And it closed because of the "influential person" who wanted to boot out the present operator despite the "binding and valid" contract. That is the bigger problem.

Now the PPMC president is Felix S. Racadio. The PPMC chair is Filadelfo S. Roxas, who is also chair of the BCDA. Guess what the "S" in both their middle initials stands for?

And so despite the court cases, despite the order from Judge Robert Cawed of San Fernando, La Union, for the BCDA (and the PPA) to stop takeover, apparently to allow continued operations at the port, nothing is happening.

From what I hear, former General Abaya wants to get a fighting chance in what is turning out to be a media war between him and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who recently lambasted Abaya over the Poro Point issue.

Up for bidding, I heard, is a P3.5-million PR campaign for the BCDA one year.

Meantime, the port is still not running. And so what do we have here—a seaport that's not running and a brand new airport terminal that's not being used? When do you think Malacañang will step in finally?

Peso hits 6-month high ...

From page B1

markets like the Philippines, distracted by the possibility of the US Federal Reserve raising its interest rates further.

From a closing rate of 51.05 on Tuesday, the peso broke through the 50:$1 barrier in morning trading at the Philippine Dealing System and traded between an intra-day low of 50.97 and a high of 50.91 yesterday.

The peso, Asia's strongest currency in 2005, has now gained by 4 percent since the start of the year and is close to retesting this year's peak of 50.88 posted in early March.

Consuelo Garcia, head of treasury at foreign bank ING, yesterday said foreign and local investors have regained a strong appetite for Philippine portfolio assets, reflecting an improved confidence in the domestic economy.

"Investors are reentering into the markets. They are more constructive because political noises have died down, there's expectation of lower inflation and the government's bond exchange is expected to be successful," she said.

The government expects to meet its target to issue as much as P20 billion worth of new 10-year local bonds in exchange for other government securities after the offer period to swap debt papers ended on Tuesday.

Sources privy to the Bureau of the Treasury's local bond exchange program said the market responded favorably to the government's offering given the outlook for a steady or declining interest rates as well as improving interest rate environment.

The swap is expected to stretch the average maturity of the government's domestic debts while investors would get higher yields on the new bonds.

The government's bond exchange program also aims to retire securities which are not actively traded in the secondary market and replace them with securities carrying maturities most demanded by the market.

Earlier this year, it bought back P111 billion worth of peso-denominated government securities with new instruments concentrated in three-, five- and seven-year maturities.

Currency traders said the BSP continued to tolerate the peso's strengthening as this would help in its inflation-targeting policy.

A strong peso, despite some tradeoff in terms of lower export margins, tempers the country's inflation rate by reducing the import bill, particularly the purchase of oil from offshore suppliers.

The BSP recently announced that it expected the country's inflation rate to ease further to 5.8-6.5 percent in August as the strong peso and bountiful farm harvests tempered increases in prices of major commodities like fuel.

The forecast of a softer inflation rate for August was in line with the BSP's outlook that inflation would slow down for the rest of the year and return to the targeted path of 4-5 percent next year.

Demand for independent ...

From page B1

form drive is the newly created role of independent director.

Complying for compliance's sake

According to the SEC, an independent director means a person who, apart from his fees and shareholdings, is "independent of management and free from any business or other relationship" which could, or could reasonably be perceived to, materially interfere with his exercise of independent judgment as a director.

This means that the independent director must not be a director or officer or substantial stockholder of the corporation or of its related companies or any of its substantial shareholders.

He must not be a relative of any director, officer or substantial shareholder of the corporation, any of its related companies or any of its substantial shareholders.

More importantly, he must not be acting as a nominee or representative of a substantial shareholder of the corporation, any of its related companies or any of its substantial shareholders.

He must not also have been employed in any executive capacity by the company, any of its related companies or by any of its substantial shareholders within the last five years from his appointment. He must also not be retained as professional adviser by that company, any of its related firms or any of its substantial shareholders either personally or through his firm.

Finally, he must not have engaged in any transaction with the corporation or with any of its related companies or with any of its substantial shareholders, other than transactions which are conducted at "arms length."

"All these rules are meant to help ensure that the independent director acts in the interests of the minority stakes in the company," PAL's Alindogan said. "He is supposed to look out for the interests of shareholders other than that of the owner."

Naturally, such noble intentions are easier said than done.

According to the Institute of Corporate Directors, many firms, especially the mid-sized to smaller ones, have yet to buy into the concept of independent directors, even as they faithfully comply with the regulatory requirements.

"Some are just doing it for the sake of compliance," said ICD executive director Jonathan Juan Moreno.

Convincing firms to follow the spirit, rather than the letter of the law, is the real challenge, he said. *(To be concluded)*

Pool of retiring OFWs seen as significant economic force

STUDY shows the majority of Filipinos abroad intend to settle back in the country when they retire

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS SEEN SITTING ON a potential gold mine with its large pool of overseas Filipino workers who intend to settle back in the country and could, thus, become a significant economic force in the future.

In a research presentation to the Ayala group dated Aug. 2 entitled "OFW (overseas Filipino workers) Remittances: Patterns, Impact, Sustainability," former Finance Undesecretary Romeo Bernardo said favorable global demographics would also likely sustain the strong inflows of OFW remittances to the country in the years ahead.

Bernardo, a director at Bank of the Philippine Islands, noted that the majority of Filipinos overseas intend to settle back in country when they retire and this could be a significant catalyst for growth in the future.

"What they choose to do when they come back can be an important driver of future economic growth,"he said.

He cited a study of the Asian Development Bank indicating that the majority of Filipinos leaving for overseas job assignments were "very likely" to settle back in the country once they retire.

"This is the good news. When they come back, they bring us not only money but also skills and network to fuel the economy, as well as contribution to better governance and public life since they have seen best practices abroad," Bernardo said, noting successful expatriates, including Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manny Pangilinan, who returned to the country.

Bernardo said the migration of workers had nothing to do with the quality of domestic governance, as the trend started long ago even when the country was ahead of its peers in the region.

"Remittance per worker is rising recently with the increasing number of professionals being deployed," he said.

In turn, remittances were making the Philippine economy more resilient to shocks that could otherwise affect growth, inflation, external accounts and employment.

In terms of employment, for instance, he said the ratio of jobless Filipinos would have doubled to 20 percent from the current 10 percent if all OFWs stayed in the country.

The wide discrepancy in the compensations here and overseas would likely prompt more workers to leave for overseas jobs, Bernardo said.

In terms of profession, the study said nurses enjoy the highest premium abroad, earning 16 times more than what they could generate if they stayed in the country. Also enjoying higher pays are medical technicians who can earn 10 times the local rates, computer programmers (5 times higher) and engineers (5 times higher).

Domestic helpers abroad are also estimated to earn three times more than their local peers. The scenario is similar for security guards, cooks and caregivers.

Bernardo said Filipinos had diversified geographic sources of employment and were, therefore, immune to event risk in any one or handful of host countries.

In terms of remittance source, 25.9 percent of global remittances comes from Saudi Arabia, 10.4 percent from the rest of Middle East, 16 percent from Europe, 9.3 percent from North America and 8.4 percent from Japan, based on International Monetary Fund estimates.

Powdered coco milk exports up 442% in April

POWDERED COCONUT MILK WAS THE TOP nontraditional coconut product export last April with receipts hitting $536,218, as shipments went up 442 percent to 255 metric tons from year-ago level.

Preliminary data from the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines show that total earnings from 10 non-traditional exports reached $1.5 million in April.

These products also include nata de coco, virgin coconut oil, liquid coconut milk, *makapuno*, coconut water, coconut chips, fresh coconut, frozen coconut meat and coconut vinegar.

Traditional coconut exports include coconut oil, copra meal, desiccated coconut and oleochemicals.

The Netherlands was the biggest buyer of coconut milk powder with 77 MT or 30 percent of all shipments. Other major destinations were the United States, Belgium, Italy, France, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Nata de coco exports generated $304,659 despite a 37-percent decline in volume. Japan remained the top market of nata de coco, cornering 453 MT or 91.6 percent of the total.

Virgin coconut oil posted overseas sales of $242,490 although the volume dropped by 6 percent to 61 MT. The Americans got the bulk of the VCO shipments with 54 MT or 89.2 percent of total.

Exporters sold 167 MT of liquid coconut milk for $202,621, but the volume meant a 29.5-percent decline. The United States bought 115 MT or 68.9 percent of all cargoes.

Makapuno shipments shrank by 40 percent to 32 MT, yielding $63,740 in sales with 20 MT or 61.8 percent of the volume going to the United States. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Power supply enough to meet demand

Capacity seen able to support 5.7 percent economic growth

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY HAS ENOUGH POWER TO meet future demand, according to state-run National Power Corp.

"Our present power supply is more than adequate to meet the demand, and will be able to support the projected 5.7-percent growth in the economy," Napocor said in a statement.

Napocor made the assurance after Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the government would "closely watch" the power sector and would invest in it to avert a crisis.

Concerns were raised that Mindanao would have a power shortage in 2008 to be followed by Luzon in 2011.

According to Napocor data, the country has an installed capacity of more than 12,000 megawatts (MW), more than enough to meet the peak demand of 6,768 MW forecast for the year.

In the Luzon grid, in particular, Napocor's generating plants have a rated capacity of roughly 9,000 MW, which amply covers the estimated system peak demand of about 7,000 MW.

"In fact, among the three major grids, it is in Luzon where the power situation is the most sufficient, because most of the plants are located here," Napocor said.

Apart from Luzon, Napocor said long-term measures were also being implemented in the Visayas and Mindanao grids to further improve the power supply situation there.

In the Visayas, these include maximizing the loading of the Leyte-Cebu submarine cable up to its rated capacity of 400 MW, ensuring the full commissioning of the Panay diesel power plant 3 by the third quarter, and delaying the retirement of the Bohol diesel power plant pending the completion of interconnection projects in the area.

Kepco Philippines Corp. and Salcon Power Corp. are also putting up a 200-MW coal-fired power facility in Cebu, which will be operational by 2010.

The Mindanao grid, for its part, is expected to get a big boost from the 200-MW Mindanao coal-fired power plant project, which had been scheduled for commissioning by January next year.

Power supply in the grid should also increase by 2007 with the completion of repair works on Napocor's 255-MW Pulangui IV hydropower plant. Another 60 MW of capacity will also be available from Agus II, following the repair of its upstream flood control structures.

The 46-MW Sibulan hydropower project of Aboitiz Equity Ventures in Davao and the 50-MW Mt. Apo 3 geothermal project of the Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. are also up for completion in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

"In the long term however, we would still have to put in an additional capacity of about 71 MW in the Visayas by 2008, and another 57 MW in new capacity in Mindanao by 2009, to ensure adequate power supply in these two grids," Napocor said.

Neri said a major review of the government's energy program would be conducted in the next two weeks.

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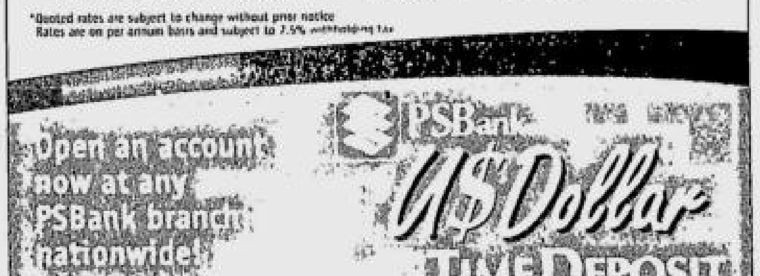

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Palace likely to keep tariff rate structure

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG IS NOT EXPECTED TO RADICALLY change the country's tariff regime as the government is set to finish its comprehensive review of duty rates, according to an official privy to the matter.

Tariff Commission chair Edgardo Abon said preliminary data showed that tariffs for 90 percent of tariff lines would not likely be changed.

"But there could be decreases in (a few tariff lines that cover) raw materials and pharmaceutical products," he added. "Mild increases could also be seen in a few tariff line for finished products."

Abon said the technical working group (TWG) doing the review was expected to present its recommendations to Malacañang before the end of the year.

He declined to give further details.

Abon added that the realignment would not significantly cut revenues as tariff adjustments would be "more or less revenue-neutral."

"The new tariff regime would probably be good for three or four years although (there was a move to make it five years)," the official said. "We are refining our preliminary recommendations before we submit for approval."

It was earlier reported that Malacañang was expected to keep import duties at current levels as the comprehensive review of tariffs was winding down and free trade agreements near full implementation in 2010.

Officials have said a high-level TWG was looking at maintaining tariffs and holding the next review in 2009 or a year before free trade takes effect under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Area or AFTA.

This position was a complete turnaround from ideas being broached when the comprehensive review started in 2004.

Back then, officials were considering an across-the-board increase of 1 percent to help raise revenues when President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted that the country was in a fiscal crisis.

This idea stemmed from the findings of a study that showed the country's most favored nation tariffs was the lowest in the region.

Finance wants tax amnesty applicants to file SALNs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE MAY RECOMMEND the legislation of a revenue-enhancement measure that will require tax delinquents to submit their statements of assets, liabilities, and networth (SALNs) once every three years so they could avail themselves of amnesty.

In a draft position paper, the DOF said it could agree to a proposed tax amnesty program if the applicants would be required to regularly submit their SALNs.

The SALNs, the DOF said, would help enhance the Bureau of Internal Revenues' taxpayers database and, therefore, make it easier for the agency to trace tax delinquency cases in the future.

The department earlier expressed reservations over moves in the Senate to revive the tax amnesty bill, which was filed in 2004 but was later shelved. Finance officials said implementing a tax amnesty program might only encourage tax delinquency and counter the campaign for tax compliance.

But the department said it was amenable to the tax amnesty proposal if the applicants would be required to regularly submit their SALNs to the BIR.

Tax amnesty programs in the past failed to substantially increase revenues as projected because applicants were not required to submit their SALNs, it said.

The plan to revive the tax amnesty bill was initiated by Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means. Recto had sought the comments of the DOF on the draft bill. It is intended to encourage delinquent taxpayers, especially those that the BIR is having difficulty of detecting, to come out in the open so the government could collect even a portion of their liabilities.

The draft bill states that individuals applying for amnesty will be required to pay only an amount equivalent to 10 percent of their networth as of December 2005 or P50,000, whichever is higher.

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Gov't revenue goal set at ₱1.1T

Mirant pays ₱5B in taxes

MIRANT PHILIPPINES paid yesterday, way ahead of the Sept. 15 due date, P5.1 billion in stamp duty and withholding taxes on interest and dividends.

Last month, the company also paid before due date P251 million in documentary stamp taxes from a loan that was used to pay existing obligations and the dividend declaration.

Mirant chair and president Jose P. Leviste Jr. said the company had been among the country's largest corporate taxpayers since 1999, paying more than P24 billion in internal revenue and local taxes from its Sual and Pagbilao operations and its investment in the Ilijan power plant.

"Paying the right taxes has been a culture in Mirant and we are proud of this," he said.

Leviste said the company had gone the extra mile to protect the environment through a massive mangrove reforestation project in Pagbilao, which will be duplicated in Guimaras, and by providing electricity to more than one thousand barangays.

Yesterday, it donated P5 million to the joint government-private sector project to plant more than a million trees throughout the country and help clean up and restore the mangrove areas affected by the Guimaras oil spill.

Of the '07 target, ₱784 billion will come from BIR and ₱235 billion from Customs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS set the national government's revenue target for next year at P1.119 trillion, representing a 14.7-percent jump from this year's expected level.

This was based on expectations that existing revenue measures would continue to boost tax collection.

The target was also anchored on the assumption that the economy, as measured by its gross domestic product, would grow by 5.7 percent in 2007 from the expected growth of 5.5 percent this year.

Of the total revenue target, the BIR is expected to contribute P784.1 billion, while the Bureau of Customs is seen raising P235.1 billion. Other revenue-collection agencies will contribute the balance.

The target for the BIR is 16.1 percent higher than its 2006 goal of P675.4 billion. This puts further pressure on the agency which is having difficulty meeting its 2006 target.

As of July, the BIR is P8 billion short of its seven-month target, collecting only P367.3 billion as against its P375.3-billion target.

However, it will not be held accountable for P50 billion of its P784-billion tax collection program for next year. The amount represents the expected tax collection from treasury bills and bonds.

The BIR had said it should not be made liable for shortfalls in the revenue from government securities because collections depended on the amount of bills and bonds issued by the Bureau of the Treasury.

The programmed increase in the BIR's target for next year was partly based on the assumption that it would be able to raise collection of income and value-added tax.

Under the DOF's projections, income tax collection next year would grow by 15 percent to P454.3 billion because of the expected growth in the economy. Individuals are also expected to earn more, thus contributing higher income tax to the government.

Sales taxes and value-added taxes are expected to reach P219.3 billion next year, 20.8 percent higher than the P181.6 billion target for this year.

The P235.1-billion revenue target for the Bureau of Customs next year, which is 19 percent higher than this year's projected P197.6 billion, takes into account the expected growth in the country's exports.

From the projected $44.254 billion this year, export revenue is seen to rise by 10.4 percent to $48.857 billion in 2007.

Measures to improve tax collection include the use of third-party information, such as clients of corporate taxpayers, to check on the accuracy of the tax payments of the latter. Another measure is the strengthening of the BIR's computer auditing.

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo welcomes executives of the Philips Electronics group led by Royal Philips executive vice president Gottfried Dutine (3nd from left) during a courtesy call at Malacanang. Gottfried and Philips Electronics Asia Pacific CEO Ad Schevers (2rd from left) are in the country for the celebration of the 50th year of the company in the Philippines. With them is Philips Philippines CEO Med Mateo (left). The Philips officials discussed with President Arroyo how Philips' lighting products could help Filipino consumers save energy.

Sale of sub-transmission assets to Sfelapco OKd

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER A THREE-YEAR WAIT, SAN FERNANDO Electric Light and Power Corp. (Sfelapco) finally signed the deed of absolute sale for P12.6 million worth of National Transmission Corp. sub-transmission assets that it bought in January 2004, prompting it to eye another P30 million worth of similar assets.

After the signing of the deed of absolute sale yesterday, Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said the state firm could finally remit its first sub-transmission asset sale proceeds to the National Treasury.

Sfelapco paid the balance of the purchase price of more than P8 million also yesterday.

In a 17-page order dated March 15, the Energy Regulatory Commission approved the agreement covering the sale of the sub-transmission assets in Pampanga, particularly the Mexico-Sfelapco, Mexico-SMC and Mexico-Elegant lines, all rated at 69 kilovolts (kV).

The lines span 12.76 circuit-kilometers and will serve as power delivery lines for Sfelapco's San Fernando City franchise area.

Sfelapco senior vice president and general manager Jose Lazatin said the distribution utility was now eyeing the 30-circuit-kilometer 69-kV Guagua line, which was within its Floridablanca franchise area.

"But we still have to resolve issues with the other user of the line. Pelco 2 (Pampanga Electric Cooperative 2) is sharing the line with us," he said.

He said it was possible that the two power distributors could put in a joint bid for the line.

Transco senior consultant Roque Corpuz said the Guagua line could not only serve as the main power line for Floridablanca, but also as an alternate line for Sfelapco's San Fernando franchise area.

The 30-circuit-kilometer Guagua line, he said, was estimated to be worth around P30 million.

Apart from the Sfelapco sale contract, the ERC had also approved Transco's purchase agreement with Cabanatuan Electric Corp. (Celcor) for sub-transmission assets worth P11.16 million.

This was only the second such contract that the ERC had approved, out of the 32 that Transco had so far entered into.

Ortiz said Transco had submitted 17 completed contracts to the ERC. Of those, two had been approved, and another two were lined up for approval.

ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr., he said, had committed to expedite the approval of the rest of the submitted contracts, to enable Transco to fulfill its mandate of divesting itself of its sub-transmission assets and functions.

No-gov't intervention policy on power firm sale probed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL POWER Commission yesterday started the probe of Atlanta-based Mirant Corp.'s claim that it did not need government consent to sell its Philippine assets and equity shares.

In a statement issued yesterday, JCPC co-chair and Lanao del Norte Rep. Alipio Cirilo Badelles said this was quite worrisome for the government as Mirant's assets and shares could end up in the hands of financially capable but technically inadequate entities.

"This should be a cause for concern because this company is exiting the country, and it may just leave us with a buyer that we cannot rely on to run the facilities. When that happens we would be in trouble," he said.

Badelles said that in conducting its investigation, the congressional oversight committee took particular note of the response that National Power Corp. president Cyril del Callar got from Mirant chair and chief executive Edward Muller when asked to detail the manner by which it would divest its Philippine assets.

Muller, he said, had replied that the Philippine government's consent was no longer required in selling the Mirant's assets here, because the "sale plan would be consummated in its Hong Kong Asia-Pacific unit."

He said the JCPC would also consider Napocor's proposal for it to invoke its right to refuse to transfer the energy conversion agreements (ECAs) to whoever will win the bidding for Mirant's Philippine business.

"The committee would have to determine if the ECAs with Mirant are assignable to any party and if a breach of contract is not being committed in the process," he said.

Other issues that the JCPC would probe, he said, included Mirant's unsettled real property taxes, liabilities that the independent power producer could pass on to its successor, and the welfare of Mirant Philippines' employees who were allegedly not being given a voice with regard to their separation packages.

Also to be scrutinized was the possibility of Mirant's Philippine assets fetching a valuation high enough to trigger an increase in electricity rates.

GOINGS-ON

Yellow Pages

DIRECTORIES PHILIPPINES Corp. said residential and institutional subscribers have until Sept. 15 to claim their 2006-2007 DPC Yellow Pages at any PLDT business office or any Bayad Center in Metro Manila.

The latest edition of the Yellow Pages does not only come in full color and with abundant features, it also has complementary electronic and mobile platforms which enhance its utility.

"People will always need to search for something in the marketplace, and the Yellow Pages will always be focused on meeting this need," said DPC president Ricardo D. Bautista.

He said DPC was keeping pace with its electronics and mobile counterparts in terms of innovations to enhance the search experience.

2006 CEO Excel Awards

TOP-LEVEL MANAGERS whose outstanding communication skills helped achieve business and stakeholder objectives will be recognized in the 2006 CEO Excel or Communication Excellence in Organization Awards to be held in early November.

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines said this was the local counterpart of the world IABC Excel Awards given yearly to CEOs, presidents or senior executives during IABC's annual conference in the United States or Canada.

The 2006 CEO Excel Awards will be formally launched at the IABC general membership meeting on Sept. 5 at the 25th floor of Ayala Tower I, on Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 30, 2006)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	37.5	36	36.5	2,950,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	52.5	52	52	298,100
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	5,210
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.4	0.37	0.38	8,190,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	80	84	78.5	79	1,171,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38	37	37	266,000
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	55	55	55	55	600
Philippine National Bank	34	34.5	34	34.5	37,800
Phil. Savings Bank	41	41	41	41	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	21,000
Security Bank Corp.	48	49.5	48	49.5	494,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	44.5	44	44.5	28,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	320,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.06	2.16	2.06	2.16	1,826,000
Filipino Fund Inc	4	4	4	4	30,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	239,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2040	2040	2040	2040	170
Ivantage Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	2,264,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43.5	44.5	43.5	44.5	110,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp	41.5	42	41	42	526,100
Manila Electric Co. A	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	11,000
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	26	25.5	26	1,363,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	601,000
Petron Corp.	3.9	4	3.9	4	3,252,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	790,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.93	320,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	7,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	16,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	32.5	32	32	37,800
Pancake House Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	14,000
RFM Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	180,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1,012,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	36,100
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	70.5	71	41,800
Universal Robina Corp	18	18	17.75	18	1,947,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	1,800,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	770,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	490,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.7	4.95	4.7	4.95	445,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.38	1.42	130,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.5	3.65	3.45	3.45	63,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	110,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.62	0.65	0.6	0.63	153,110,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.19	0.19	0.165	0.19	90,650,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	10	10	10	10	28,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	6,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge.,Inc. B	11	12	11	12	2,000
Ayala Corp.	430	435	430	432.5	66,860
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.54	680,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	4.95	200,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.029	48,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	144,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	10,210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	72,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	350,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	120,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,795,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.8	150,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	694,000
Medco Holdings	0.21	0.31	0.21	0.31	15,140,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	150,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.22	1.22	0.95	1.22	23,560,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	18,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	520,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	180,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.14	6,380,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	219	217	218	139,460
South China Resources Inc	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	70,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.04	1.06	0.93	1	768,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	6,630,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.13	1,140,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	10,687,100
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	3,189,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,400,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.24	2.28	2.24	2.28	1,448,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,300,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	650,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	29,730,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0675	0.0725	0.065	0.0725	92,900,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	237,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.155	3,030,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.17	0.18	0.16	0.165	2,170,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.4	5,418,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	28,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.245	0.22	0.245	7,590,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.66	1.68	17,811,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.32	2,930,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	12.75	13.5	12.75	13.25	766,300
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	4,810,000
SM Development Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	590,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.65	0.67	5,900,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.105	0.105	21,080,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16	16	16	16	500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	1,678,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	985	990	980	985	55,740
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.75	4,832,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1920	1920	1905	1905	135,500
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	1,000,000
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	24,100,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.12	2.04	2.06	1,894,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	14,100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.03	93,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	691,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	11,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	169,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.98	1	0.98	1	1,370,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	22,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.6	1.74	1.6	1.7	5,909,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.4	0.32	0.37	8,480,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	410,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1110	1110	1110	1110	50
Ipeople Inc	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	95,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.26	2.32	2.2	2.2	322,000
Paxys Inc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	465,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.9	5.3	4.9	5.1	3,137,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.95	5.3	4.9	5.1	2,139,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	119,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	943,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	133,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	12,130,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,390,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	95,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	77,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	14,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4	4.05	4	4	2,901,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.05	4.1	4	4	2,461,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	23.5	23.5	23	23	190,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.6	0.6	0.56	0.56	960,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	1,440,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	480,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	286,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	48,400,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.18	914,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.22	1.22	1.16	1.2	1,248,000
Pnoc Exploration Corp.-B	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	1,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12	401,200
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100

CURRENCIES

August 31, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.779849	1.000000	51.1330
Japan	Yen	0.006689	0.008577	0.4386
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480777	1.898800	97.0913
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100268	0.128574	6.5744
Switzerland	Franc	0.634642	0.813802	41.6121
Canada	Dollar	0.704343	0.903179	46.1823
Singapore	Dollar	0.495740	0.635687	32.5046
Australia	Dollar	0.592860	0.760225	38.8726
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.068729	2.652731	135.6421
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207948	0.266652	13.6347
Brunei	Dollar	0.494169	0.633673	32.4016
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020766	0.026628	1.3616
UAE	Dirham	0.212336	0.272279	13.9224
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.282300	65.5678
Argentina	Peso	0.252174	0.323363	16.5345
Brazil	Real	0.364449	0.467333	23.8961
Denmark	Kroner	0.134040	0.171880	8.7887
India	Rupee	0.016789	0.021529	1.1008
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212117	0.271998	13.9081
Mexico	New Peso	0.071756	0.092013	4.7049
New Zealand	Dollar	0.499871	0.640985	32.7755
Norway	Kroner	0.123856	0.158821	8.1210
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012942	0.016595	0.8486
South Africa	Rand	0.109092	0.139889	7.1529
Korea	Won	0.000812	0.001041	0.0532
Sweden	Kroner	0.108296	0.138868	7.1007
Syria	Pound	0.015023	0.019264	0.9850
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023728	0.030427	1.5558

Officials urge local vegetable farmers not to relax despite collapse of WTO talks

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE collapse of trade talks of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is a blessing for the local vegetable industry.

But industry leaders here told farmers that the battle against the unabated entry of foreign vegetables was far from over.

Board Member John Kim said farmers must still guard against the impact of bilateral trade pacts on agriculture and the continuing importation of foreign vegetables in processed form.

Kim, who represented Benguet in the 13th ministerial conference of the WTO in Hong Kong in December last year, cited the country's trade agreements with China and other Asian countries, and the importation of vegetables in frozen, diced, shredded or sliced form.

He said the recent WTO talks collapse saved local vegetables from tariff reduction, lifting of import quotas and market access supposed to be enjoyed by foreign products under a free trade system.

"But bilateral agreements still pose a threat to local vegetables," Kim said, citing as example the Early Harvest Program (EHP) the country signed with China that called for trade liberalization.

"The danger is that there is no mechanism provided for dispute resolution in bilateral agreements in case a trade conflict will arise," he said.

Kim said the country's quarantine law also needed to be amended because it allowed the importation of processed vegetables even without import permits.

"Foreign vegetables that enter the country in frozen or diced form can be exploited by importers," he said.

Processed vegetables, he said, should also undergo pest risk analysis.

Kim, chair of the provincial board's agriculture committee, disagreed with experts of the Bureau of Plant Industry who said that bacteria would not thrive in imported vegetables frozen at less than 18 degrees.

"Congress must give more teeth to our quarantine law by imposing stricter requirements for imported processed vegetables," he said.

RAIN will not stop this vegetable trader from bringing his carrots to market. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

OLD MAN WEAVER. Rattan weaving is just one of the various trades common among Ifugaos. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Japan gov't tightens quarantine requirements for RP mangoes

Consumers concerned about chemicals, local exporters say

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE JAPANESE government has tightened its quarantine requirements for Philippine mangoes as residue from synthetic chemicals has become a major concern of Japanese consumers, a mango export company official said.

"This move has resulted in lower volumes of Philippine fresh mangoes to Japan, which is the country's most lucrative foreign market, during the past two years," said Miles Cabia, export and procurement manager of the Davao-based Diamond Star Corp.

Based on data from mango exporting companies, the Philippines' mango exports to Japan hit 9,955 kilograms in 2004.

In 2005, it went down to 7,964 kg.

This year, the Philippines only managed to export 4,134 kg of mangoes despite a good harvest.

And as if the stricter requirements were not bad enough, many South American countries have started conquering the lucrative Japanese market, according to Mayo Javier, mango manager of Dole Philippines.

Javier said Mexico and Brazil's fresh mango exports to Japan were "eating quite a bit into the Philippines' total share of the market."

"The Japanese government is also set to allow fresh mango shipments from India very soon," Javier added.

Mango is a major Philippine fruit, coming in third to banana and pineapple in terms of export volume and value.

The Philippines is the sixth biggest mango-producing country producing about one million metric tons a year.

It accounts for 3.5 percent of the world's production.

Javier said the Philippine mango industry should enhance the quality of its products and improve efficiency to protect the country's market share.

The Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco) said China was emerging as a good market for Philippine fresh mangoes, but like Japan, it was also adopting new quarantine rules.

Early this year, the Chinese government started to require vapor heat treatment (VHT) for fresh mango shipments from the Philippines.

But the process would entail an additional cost of at least $0.40 a kilo and would make Philippine mangoes more expensive to Chinese consumers at the retail level.

Several mango grower organizations have already urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) to negotiate with the Chinese government for a mutually acceptable quarantine treatment procedure for fresh mango shipments.

Diamond Star has begun construction of a mango VHT plant in Carmen town in Davao del Norte. The VHT plant, the second such facility to be established in Mindanao, is expected to start commercial operations next month.

Strengthening Mindanao exporters

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

AFTER OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKers, local exporters of agricultural products, home furnishing, electronics and information technology services, among others, are the country's next major source of foreign exchange.

In Mindanao, exports rose 13 percent in the first quarter of 2005 to $392 million from the previous year's level of $338 million.

This was largely due to the increase in the export values of Mindanao's major products, including coconut oil, fresh pineapples, nickel ore and desiccated coconut.

But despite the significant growth, there is still much room for improvement considering the competition posed by neighboring countries.

This was one of the key messages that came out of the recent export congress in General Santos City, which focused on priority sectors, including vegetables and fruits, mining, marine and IT.

Issues and concerns

Critical issues discussed during the congress were lack of financial assistance to small exporters; software piracy weighing on the ICT industry; inadequate infrastructure and telecommunications development, heavy tariffs and taxes, and the dearth of market penetration strategies.

Financing was a particularly serious concern affecting the fruits, marine and other resource-based export sectors.

Sought to be addressed were stringent bank requirements, high interest rates and lack of financial support for capital investments.

Infrastructure came second, due to lack of post harvest facilities; inadequate processing and cold storage facilities; lack of fish quality control laboratories; insufficient infrastructure and investments on telecommunications and Internet cafés; limited entry of public telecommunications services; and absence of an accredited building to accommodate ICT related businesses.

The spiraling cost of doing business was also a major concern considering the high cost of freight charges; transportation and shipping; road blockades as landowners of private roads collect toll fees from the company trucks; and stringent export and import documentation procedures.

Development issues

Product development and marketing were also mentioned, the challenges being the need to diversify and adopt new technologies; need to improve quality; insufficient research and development programs in the region and improper post harvest; lack of strong marketing organization or consolidator; narrow export market; weak branding or absence of brand or institutional packer for fresh and frozen tuna; lack of investment promotion and tax incentives; high tariffs of the United States and the European Union (EU) on canned tuna; insufficient EU quota allocation for canned tuna; expiry of EU TRQ regime; implementation of EU GSP on canned tuna and import ban on smoked tilapia in Japan.

Tuna concerns included the need to have two classifications for tuna in the region, the canned and the fresh-chilled.

They must have separate rules and regulations given their difference, experts said.

The Filipino tuna sector is also threatened by the foreign players who receive incentives such as tax-free status, whereas the local tuna is slapped a 35-percent tax.

On the IPO concern, several exporters were complaining about the tedious process of securing intellectual property rights in Manila.

They have proposed that the IPO establish a desk at the DTI offices.

Exporters reported that it was often easier to patent products outside the Philippines, but this would not provide them enough protection.

The insufficient support due to budget constraints of the Bureau of Fisheries was highlighted; as its budget is lumped together with the other bureaus of the Department of Agriculture.

The private sector in Mindanao also recommended the faster implementation of the project to expand the Makar Wharf at General Santos.

This would enable the region to accommodate big foreign vessels to hasten trade.

Secured commitments

At the forum, commitments from key government agencies, including the DA, Departments of Trade, Environment, Transportation and Communications, Public Works and Local Government, Philippine Coconut Authority were secured.

DTI plans to organize a financing forum for conduit organizations with the National Livelihood and Support Fund to facilitate access to financing.

To intensify product promotion and marketing strategies, DTI would conduct trade fairs, invite firms to local and international trade fairs/missions, identify OFW associations to help promote and distribute region's products, participate in national and international food expo (Japan and Taiwan) and conduct market dialog and matching.

Related line agencies would also work together to strengthen human resources by way of training and technology transfer; and then use educational mobile vans to service the remote areas.

For the ICT sector, Web and data connection for Internet access, and additional telephone systems would be provided to address the telecommunication development issues.

DTI and DOST would also assist in developing competitive products by tapping commercial attaches for market intelligence, providing testing/calibration services to clients and firms, and giving technical assistance.

These plans mean that there is still much to do before Mindanao can fulfill its promise to become the primary food basket of the Philippines.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is an advocate for Mindanao; chair, Mindanaworld Foundation Inc; ConCom and Charter change Advocacy Commission member; chair of the Mindanao TVET; Mindanao Rep, Export Development Council; chair, Joji Ilagan Foundation; former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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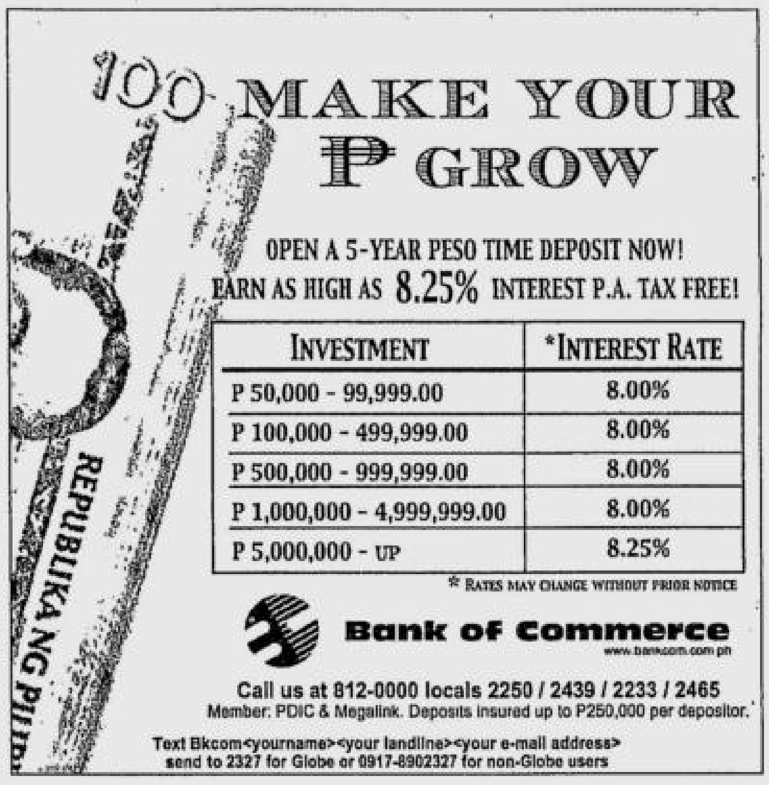

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DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Security Printing of the following Negotiable Instruments:**

Security Check	Quantity	Approved Budget*	Cost of Bid Documents
		Source of Fund: DBP Fund	
Manager's Check	125,000 sets	P 450,000.00	P 500.00
PVAO Pension Check (Continuous Form)	450,000 pieces	P 720,000.00	P 500.00
DECS Checks (Continuous Form)	1,608,322 pieces	P 2,412,483.00	P 1,000.00

*Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

Mode of Delivery/Payment: Staggered Delivery/Progressive Billing
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	September 7, 2006 (Thursday) at 9:00 a.m.	6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of September 19, 2006 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals (Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend this activity)	September 19, 2006 (Tuesday) at 9:30 a.m.	6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and must have been authorized to engage in the **Security Checks Printing business for at least three (3) years. Security Check Printer should present sample check items with MICR encoding duly tested and certified to have passed the Philippine Clearing House Corporation (PCHC) MICR reader sorter.** Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at **www.devbankphil.com.ph** and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a **non-refundable fee depending on the total amount of the approved budget of the contract of a particular item/s the prospective bidder intends to bid. Only those who purchased the bid documents will be allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on September 7, 2006.**

The Development Bank of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702/8189511 loc. 2610.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–August 24 & 31, 2006)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT

J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Telephone no. 082-221-9400 (local 204)/ Fax: 082-2264885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) through its Bids and Awards Committee - B (BAC-B), invites consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	**2006 Customer Satisfaction Survey**
Brief Description	**Conduct the survey, prepare reports and present the result of the survey to the Project Coordinator, Board of Directors and Management of the Davao City Water District.**
Approved Budget For the Contract	**Php 318,124.96**
Source of Funding	
Contract Duration	**56 calendar days**

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. Only ***three (3)*** eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be ***Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE)***. Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 50% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated. The technical proposal shall carry 70 % weight in the bid evaluation.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	August 31 – Sept. 15, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 31 – Sept. 15, 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 1 – 22, 2006
4. Results of Eligibility Check	Sept. 22 – Oct. 6, 2006
5. Results of Short Listing	Oct. 9-11, 2006
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 11 – 20, 2006
7. Pre-bid Conference	October 23, 2006; 2:00 P.M.
8. Receipt & Opening of Bids	November 7, 2006; 2:00 P.M.

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at BAC-B Secretariat c/o at the DCWD Office of the Asst. General Manager for Operations, Bajada, Davao City upon submission of a letter of intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 1,000.00** to the DCWD Cashier. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 1,500.00** to the DCWD Cashier.

The Davao City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. EXEQUIEL B. HOMEZ
Acting BAC-B Chairperson

(PDI–Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PNOC
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

	Approved Budget
Various Sizes of Spiral Wound Gaskets under ***FGT 53754***	PHP 2,861,000.00
Various Sizes of Expanding Gate Valves	**Approved Budget**
under ***FGT 53721***	PHP 1,437,000.00
under ***FGT 53766***	PHP 8,162,000.00
under ***FGT 53767***	PHP 3,440,000.00
LOT OFFER	PHP 13,039,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **August 31, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **September 8, 2006 for FGT 53754 and August 31, 2006 for FGT 53721/66/67, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time) of **September 22, 2006 for FGT 53754 and September 7, 2006 for FGT 53721/66/67**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 31 & Sept 7, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1 The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 13,807,000.00 beging the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Time-Of-Use Ready Watthour Demand Electronic Meters (Polyphase and Single Phase) for Cavite Economic Zone. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2 PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for ***Supply and Delivery of Time-Of-Use Ready Watthour Demand Electronic Meters (Polyphase and Single Phase) for Cavite Economic Zone***. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have a minimum of three (3) years technical capabilities and experience and should have undertaken a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4 A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 25 August to 08 September 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP10,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

5 *PEZA* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 15 September 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner, San Luis St., Pasay City.

6 Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 28 September 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7 Bid opening shall be on 28 September 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

8. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.

9 PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No.891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

BAC Chairman

(PDI--Aug. 24 & 31, 2006)

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

PROPOSED COMPLETION OF METRO NAGA COLISEUM, PHASE V

The *City Government of Naga*, through the *Proceeds from DBP Loan*, intends to apply the sum of ***TWENTY MILLION (Php 20,000,000.00) PESOS*** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for the ***Proposed Completion of Metro Naga Coliseum Phase V / Contract Reference Number: 000543-2006-01***. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The *City Government of Naga* now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for ***the Proposed Completion of Metro Naga Coliseum Phase V***. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs starting today, ***August 23, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM to the BAC Chairman c/o BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO)*** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ***Five Hundred (Php 500.00) Pesos***. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on or before ***Wednesday, September 6, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO).*** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents, **in three (3) copies, original, copy 1 & 2,** to the ***BAC Chairman, c/o BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office, 2nd Floor City Hall Main Building, City Hall Compound, Naga City on or before Wednesday,*** **September 6, 2006,** ***from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, City Planning & Development Office and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ***Ten Thousand (Php 10,000.00) Pesos***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday and Tuesday, September 11 and 12, 2006.***

The City Government of Naga will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on Thursday, September 14, 2006, 2:00 PM at the Metro PESO Conference Room, City Hall Compound, Naga City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids, **in three (3) copies, original, copy 1 & 2,** to the BAC Chairman, c/o BAC Secretariat, City Planning & Development Office on or before ***2:00 PM on Friday, September 29, 2006.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of **cash; cashier's or certified check; irrevocable letter of credit; bank guarantee; and, surety bond**, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on ***Friday, September 29, 2006 at 2:00 PM, Metro PESO Conference Room, City Hall Compound, Naga City.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representatives who choose to attend at ***2:00 PM on Friday, September 29, 2006.***

Completion of the Works is required within ***one hundred eighty (180) calendar days***. Equipment required: **welding machine, electric drill, road grader, road roller, concrete mixer and water truck.**

The *City Government of Naga* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
MR. FRANK M. MENDOZA
c/o BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office
City Hall Compound, Naga City 4400
Tel. No. (054) 811-6183 / (054) 4732053
Fax No. (054) 811-1286
Email address: bac@nagacity.gov.ph
Website: www.naga.gov.ph

(Sgd.) FRANK M. MENDOZA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 24 & 31, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Provincial Capitol Malaybalay City
Tel. # 088-221-4820 & Telefax # 088-221-2537
E-mail Add: buk_provl_bac@yahoo.com.ph
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Bids and Awards Committee

Standard Form Number [illegible]
Revised on July 26, 2004
Contract Reference Number [illegible]

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BUKIDNON through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid and re-bid for the hereunder projects

NAME OF THE PROJECT : **Project IV – Medical Equipment – For the use in Bukidnon Provincial Hospital in Maramag and Manolo Fortich**
Project V – Drugs and Medicines
FOR RE-BID (2nd Semester 2006)
Project I – Drugs and Medicines
Project II – Medical, Laboratory Supplies and Reagents
Project III – Plasma Freezer
LOCATION : **Provincial General Services Office**
BRIEF DESCRIPTION : For the use of Seven (7) Provincial Hospitals and Twenty Two (22) Health Stations for the second semester of CY 2006
Approved Budget for the contract : **Project IV – P32,787,472.00**
Project V – P1,814,902.36
FOR RE-BID (2nd Semester 2006)
Project I – P3,087,880.73
Project II – P1,550,778.23
Project III – P700,000.00
DELIVERY PERIOD : 60 calendar days upon receipt of Notice to proceed for Medical equipment
: 15 working days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed for Drugs and Medicines, Medical, Laboratory's Supplies and Reagents.
PLACE OF DELIVERY : Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows.

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 31-Sept. 05, 2006
2. Pre-bid conference	September 04, 2006
3. Application for Eligibility	September 08, 2006
4. Opening of Bids Deadline for the submission of Bid documents	September 19, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. September 19, 2006 not later than 9:00 A.M.
5. Bid Evaluation	September 22, 2006
6. Post-qualification	September 26, 2006
7. Notice of Award	September 29, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to Prospective Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 each for re-bid both Project 1 & 2, P2,000.00 for Project III, P5,000.00 for Project IV and P500.00 for Project V, at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the BAC office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security equal to 1% for Cash, Certified check, Cashier's check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable letter of credit; 1.5% for Bank guarantee; 2.5% for Surety bond of the Approved Budget for the Contract as advertised. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The Province of Bukidnon reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Person: Ma. Joe-an P. Bayona

Approved by:

(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
Prov'l Admin/BAC Chairman

(PDI–August 31 & Sept. 5, 2006)

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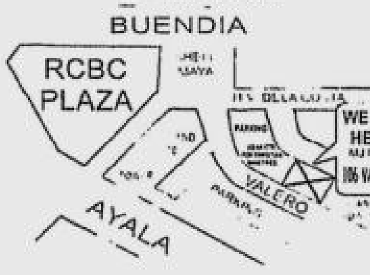

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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
Printing of LANDBANK 2007 Calendar. 300,000 pcs. - Wall 500,000 pcs. - Pocket	P6,684,000.00 100,000.00	September 14, 2006 1:30 PM	September 27, 2006 1:00 PM	P 3,400.00
3 sets ECCS Reader (at least 35, 60 & 200 DPM) Plus Two (2) Years Maintenance Services	2,364,408.76	September 14, 2006 3:00 PM	September 27, 2006 1:00 PM	P 1,400.00
2 Units MICR Encoder (at least 60 DPM) Plus Two (2) Years Mantenance Services	260,000.00			

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting August 31, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes placed in single outer envelope and sealed accordingly in the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the LANDBANK-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI- Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
TRADE & INDUSTRY

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investment Building
385 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that ***UPLAND BANANA CORPORATION*** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as ***New Export Producer of Banana*** on a Non-Pioneer status with a capacity of ***337,500 MPTY (25,000,000 boxes per year)*** with **project/plant site located at North and South Cotabato.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) Engr. **RUDY B. CAÑA, RPAE**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – August 31, 2006)

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JAC FILIPINAS
PAWNSHOP, INC.
100 C. Palanca St.,
Quiapo Manila
will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of Feb. & Mar. 2006 on Sept. 21, 2006 at 9 a.m. - J. Lanuza – Auctioneer

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PMAP celebrates 50th year founding anniversary

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (PMAP) the premiere human resource management organization in the country highlights its advocacies by giving "gifts' to its major stakeholders during its 50th year anniversary this year. For the business community, people managers and students of human resources management, it is publishing a book entitled "People Management in the Philippines: Real Stories of Excellence." "Sharing the Light" aims to rehabilitate at least 50 public high school libraries all over the country. A conference to bring together educators and industry people to address mismatch issues is being planned in October together with a nationwide job fair.

Plans to bring labor standards education to export processing sites are also being finalized. PMAP is the premiere human resources management organization in the country with nearly 1500 member companies and human resource practitioners nationwide.

It was organized in 1956 by Perfecto Sison and 37 other pioneers in personnel management.

Stateland announces recruitment of brokers and agents in Lipa

STATELAND, A DYNAMIC COMmunity developer with distinctive current projects in Laguna, Cavite and other prominent locations, ready to be marketed, invites all interested real estate brokers and agents of Lipa, Batangas and its neighboring towns in its first ever "grand recruitment" with bannered activity title "Leaping@Lipa."

The organizers of this event have invited engineers with long years of experience in real estate development to impart essential information in the gamut of house construction and community development. This activity, is seen as the ideal venue to present Stateland's featured projects located in neighboring provinces of Laguna and Cavite, as well as its special promotions for brokers, agents, and buyers is set on Saturday, Sept. 2, 2006 from 1-5 p.m. at Goldilocks, C.M. Recto, cor. J.P. Rizal St., Lipa City, Batangas.

For more details, please contact Delie U. Chua (02) 244-6818, 0917-827-4553.

PR Congress early bird registration extended

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS Society of the Philippines (PRSP) announces the extension from August 15 to 31, 2006 of the deadline for Early Bird registrants to the 13th National PR Congress scheduled on September 27-29, 2006 at Hotel InterContinental Manila, Makati City.

The 13th National Public Relations Congress chair, Maloli Katigbak Espinosa, said the extension was considered in order to accommodate more PRSP members and industry colleagues. Early bird registrants get as much as 25% discount. For more details please call the Secretariat at telephone nos. 638-0010 and 638-0012.

PCOM's 8th midyear confab set

THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF Occupational Medicine (PCOM), an organization of occupational medical practitioners committed to preserve, promote, and enhance the health, wellness, and safety of workers and standardize the practice of Occupational Medicine in the country, will hold its 8th Midyear Convention on Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Cebu Waterfront Hotel. To be hosted by PCOM Cebu chapter headed by its president Dr. Vertilla L. Ybanez with the National Director for Visayas Region Dr. Virginia M Capiral as the Liaison Officer to PCOM National, the confab, with its theme "PCOM Without Borders," is expected to draw participants from its 15 chapters across the nation. Engineer Elias Cayanong, Regional Director – Department of Labor and Employment for Region VII, will be the keynote speaker.

Composed of around 2,500 members, PCOM regularly conducts basic and diplomate courses on occupational medicine for its members. PCOM national president Dr. Oscar D. Tinio and PCOM Cebu Chapter president Dr. Vertilla Ybanez are enjoining all occupational health practitioners to attend the convention. For particulars, contact the PCOM Secretariat , Tel. No. 253-7997 and Cel No.: 0927-7958556

Stellans, ahoy!

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE IN Cubao, Quezon City is gearing up for its Grand Alumnae Homecoming 2006 on Saturday, Oct. 7, at the SMC Covered Court . Host this year is the Class of 1981.

The celebration, dubbed "STARS '81: Absolutely Fab @ 25", promises to be a fun-filled day and night of groovin' and grindin' to the funky music of the 70s and 80s!

Batch '81 will also be turning over to SMC its contribution to the education of future Stellans.

Registration starts at 3:00 P.M., with 150 early birds getting a valuable keepsake that's uniquely Stella Maris, while everyone gets a chance to bring home delightful door prizes!

Registration fee is P200 in support of the SMC Alumnae Association Inc.'s scholarship project.

Please contact Angeli Abundo-Telan at angetelan@yahoo.com or Tina Lejano-Velasco at 671-1222 for details.

As we,
Mrs. Gloria de Villa Dámaso
and the rest of the family
of the late

IBARRA A. DÁMASO, Sr.

(1921-2005)

Historian, Educator, and Former Councilor of San Juan, Batangas

commemorate today, 31 Aug. 2006,
the **First Death Anniversary** of our Papa Iber,
we'd like to wholeheartedly thank all our relatives, colleagues,
and friends for their gestures of unity with our family
and for remembering Papa Iber in a special way in their prayers,
offerings, and fond recollections.

Holy Masses will be offered today at St. James Parish, Ayala Alabang; San Juan de Nepomuceno Parish, San Juan, Batangas; and the College Chapel, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC.

**Please include "Papa Iber"
in your prayers, especially today.**

ESPERANZA A. GONZALEZ, Ph.D

Joined her Creator on August 29, 2006 at the age of 83.

Her entire loving and grieving family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She will surely be missed especially by people whose lives she has touched.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 2, 2006 (Saturday) at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass, at Chapel 1B.

RODOLFO "RUDY" TADIAR ASPERILLA

Of San Fernando, La Union

August 3, 1943 - August 27, 2006

His loving parents **Jose & Josefa**; sister **Aurora A. Santiago**; children **Maritess, Marissa & Alex**; daughters-in-law **Everly Camarillo & Christine C. Asperilla**; granddaughter **Ally** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe.

Cremation to be announced later.

DOMINGA TORRANO CASTILLO

(1916 - 2006)

*Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 30, 2006.*

Her loving children **Guia** and **Moises Viloria**, **Anching** and **Alex Formantes**, **Conrad** and **Marly**, **Pat** and **Thelma**, **Carie**, **Paco** and **Rose**, **Beng** and **Eboy Mitra**, **Gina** and **grandchildren** faithfully request relatives and friends to **PRAY** for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Our Lord of Living Mercy Parish Chapel, Mapayapa Village 1, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 2, 2006 at 2 P.M. at Himlayang Pilipino.

**"Come to
Me, all you
who are
weary and
burdened,
and I will
give you
rest."**
Matthew 11:28

ANTONINA "TONING" A. ENDAYA

Wife of the late JUDGE VICTORIANO H. ENDAYA

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 29, 2006 at the age of 92.

Her bereaved children **TOTOY** and **LINDA**†, **ALVARO** and **BELITH**, **LERRY** and **GLO**, **FARAH**, **PILAR** and **VIC**, **VITO** and **BEBOT**, **BABY**†; GRANDCHILDREN and IMMEDIATE RELATIVES and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her RESIDENCE in CUENCA, BATANGAS.

Interment will be held on SUNDAY, Sept. 3, 2006 at CUENCA MUNICIPAL CEMETERY after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Fr. André Aimé Lussier, MS

*of the
Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette
Died peacefully in the Grace of the Lord
on August 29, 2006 at the age of 79.*

Birthday: July 20, 1927
First Vows: July 2, 1949
Ordination: May 28, 1955

He will lie in state at : **St. James Parish**, Santiago City
August 30, 2006 (Evening) to
September 2, 2006 (Morning)
transfer to
La Salette Shrine, Biga Silang, Cavite
September 2, 2006 (Evening)
Mass of the Resurrection & Interment
September 5, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

**In Lieu of flowers, cash donations are preferred to put up a fund in his memory of 50 years of Ministry in the Philippines for needy students.*

---

*An obituary with a picture
can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.*
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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

ATTY. JESUS P. LAGROSA

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 29, 2006.

His wife Thel; children Pamela, Shai, and Carlo; children-in-law Robert and Willeus, other relatives and friends request you to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 03, 2006, at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat.

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Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I, INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), invites Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

PR NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION/ OPENING OF BIDS
Lot 1	Brass Fittings for Stock Replenishment	3,146,700.00	2,000.00	August 28 to September 1, 2006	September 7, 2006 at 2:00 pm	September 19, 2006 at 2:00 pm
Lot 2	CI Fittings for Stock Replenishment	379,700.00	500.00	September 4 to 8, 2006	September 14, 2006 at 2:00 pm	September 26, 2006 at 2:00 pm
Lot 3	Multicab Pick & Jeepney Type for use Maintenance Division	340,000.00	500.00	September 4 to 8, 2006	September 14, 2006 at 2:00 pm	September 26, 2006 at 2:00 pm
Lot 4	Ink and Cartridges for the 3rd Quarter	498,867.32	500.00	September 4 to 8, 2006	September 14, 2006 at 2:00 pm	September 26, 2006 at 2:00 pm

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00-5:00pm).

All Bids must be accompanied by a ***Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check in the amount of One Percent (1%) of the Approved Budget Cost.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

*ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Email:
Fax: (062) 991-2799*

(Sgd.) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
BAC I Chairman

(PDI--Aug. 31, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Telefax	636-65-43
Direct Line	633-9343
Trunk Line	632 13-61 local 2094
Website	http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing (from camera-ready materials) and Delivery of High School Science and Technology (HSST) I to III Textbooks and Teacher's Guides to public secondary schools nationwide indicated below.

Item No.	Subject & Level	Total (in copies)		Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Zone 4	
		TX	TG	TX	TG	TX	TG	TX	TG	TX	TG
	Secondary										
1	HSST I	1,551,099	44,866	348,679	10,298	594,826	16,577	289,944	8,609	317,650	9,382
2	HSST II	1,086,465	31,940	267,763	8,037	421,500	11,769	186,270	5,723	210,912	6,411
3	HSST III	1,147,288	33,624	277,938	8,320	443,318	12,375	203,956	6,216	222,076	6,713
	Total	3,784,852	110,430	894,400	26,655	1,459,644	40,721	680,170	20,548	750,638	22,506

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **Php226,000,000.00** broken down as follows: **Php93,000,000.00** for Item I, **Php65,000,000.00** for Item 2, and **Php68,000,000.00** for Item 3. Source of Funds is GOP.

Bids received that exceed the ABC per item shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be in a per item (title) per Zone basis

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting September 1, 2006 upon payment of the non-refundable fee of **Php5,000.00** in cash to the DepED Cashier.

The DepED-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 14, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.** Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at or before **10:00 a.m.** on **September 26, 2006**. Opening of eligibility requirements and bids shall follow immediately thereafter at 10:00 a.m. on the same date. The pre-bid conference, receipt, and opening of eligibilty requirements and bids shall be conducted at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan**, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar right or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act (C.A. 138). The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instructions to Bidders of the Bidding Documents. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org** or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI–Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2006)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

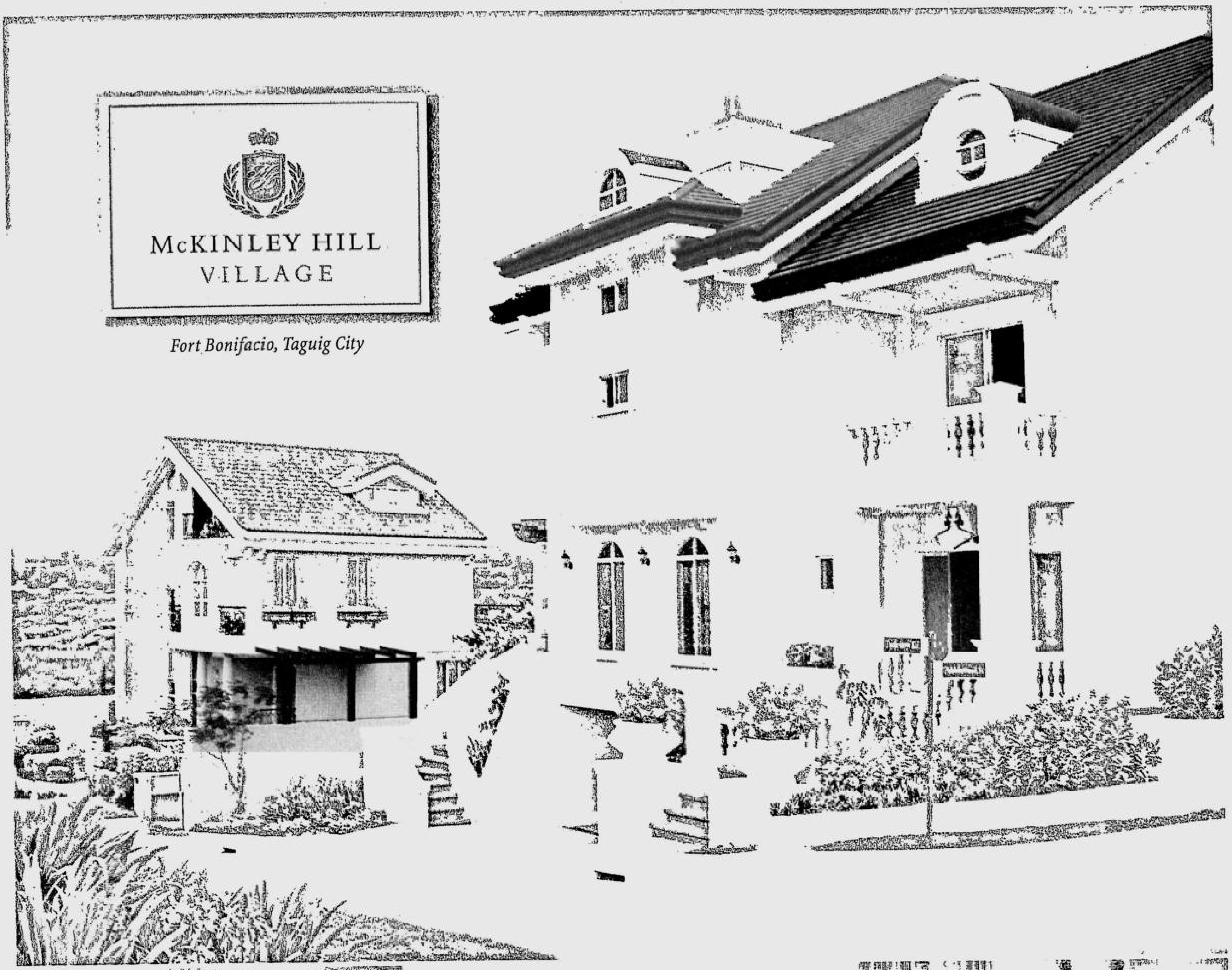
To any person with information on the whereabouts of **GENEVIEVE DELA CRUZ-SANTOS** (nee Romero), born on November 7, 1963 and with last known address at No. 10 C. Ruiz St., San Juan, Metro Manila and 25-A Far East Asia Village, Marcos Hi-way, Antipolo, Rizal, please contact the Law Office of **LUIS MA. JOSE G. SISON & ASSOCIATES** at telephone nos. 6874390 & 634-8139 (look for Ann)

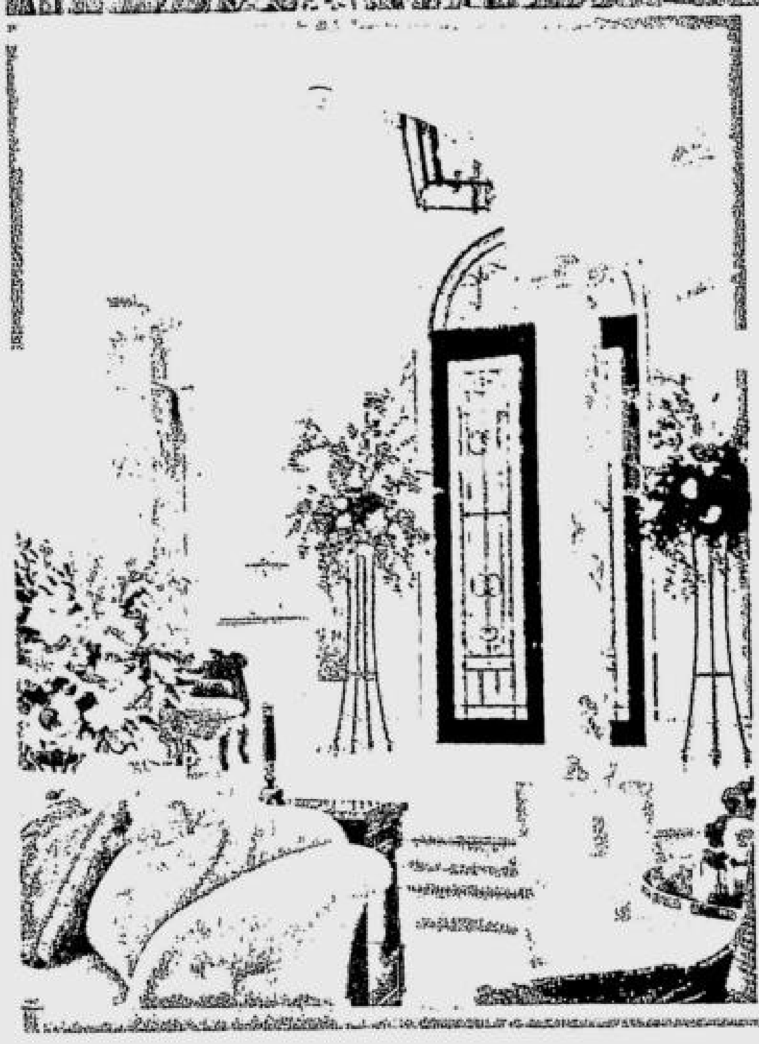
Any assistance in locating the aforesaid person will be highly appreciated.

(PDI--Aug. 31 & Sept. 1, 2006)

McKINLEY HILL
VILLAGE

Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City





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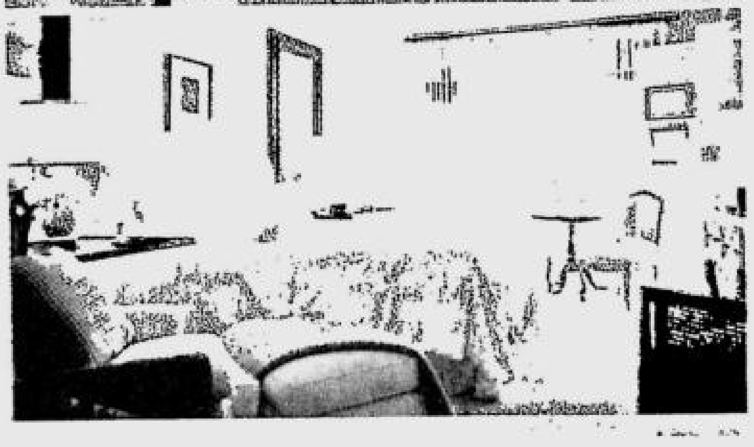

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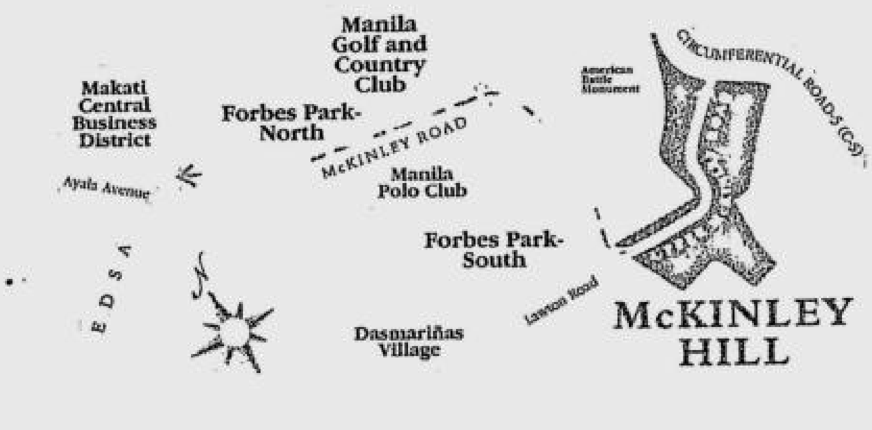
Manila Golf and Country Club
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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

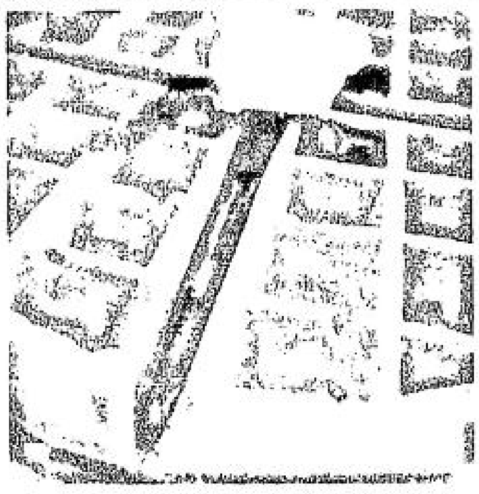
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◎ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◎ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Cooking class** in faraway Barcelona /D1
- **Cool comfort food** from Margarita Fores /E1

MOONSTRUCK
CHOCOLATE CAFE
DRINK MENU



FOOD photos by Lori Baltazar, who describes herself as "a food lover who lives, breathes, writes, photographs and bakes food."

Good enough to eat

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

THE CUPCAKE AND FOOD for the gods photos last week caused quite a stir. The cupcakes "seem to pop out, (the photo) was so tastefully done, so en vogue" were some comments. Marvin Agustin even said "*ang sarap naman ng* food for the gods." Even without tasting it!

For the pictures worth a thousand words, Lori Baltazar must take all the credit!

I've never done a picture column until today. When I saw Lori's blog, I felt not to share her photos would be robbing the world of such great talent and that would be unfair!

To me, her food shots rival those of Vogue Entertaining, Donna Hay and Martha Stewart. Such genuine Pinay talent!

When I asked Lori to describe her work, she said: "I am a food lover who lives, breathes, writes, photographs and bakes food. My website is my playground for my passion..."

And so the story goes, as it has for years... Love and passion, dedication and devotion, everything spells perfection! Visit dessertcomesfirst.blogspot.com.

Lori is a professional food writer and her essays on food on her site are entertaining. She is not a professional food photographer or stylist, but perhaps you and I could coerce her into becoming one. I am putting Lori on the spot!

Undecided

I am Danilo, HRM (hotel and restaurant management) student. I like to know my options after school. I don't know what path to take, rather what to do . I like cooking but I am more inclined toward arts and styling. I would like to be a food photographer one day. I have a simple digital camera. Can I work with just that? What would you advise?

Sorry for my very late reply. I could not answer this by myself. I take photos, and they are exceptional—according to me! I haven't asked my mother though.

The others I know who take great pics have hi-tech equipment. Never came across a food photo hobbyist until Lori came along. I took the liberty of asking her the questions.

She says: "I don't feel qualified to answer these questions, but here are my answers based on what I do when I shoot:

- Look for an angle that puts the food at its luscious best. A food shot should convey the food's sheer deliciousness.
- Attempt to capture food in natural light. I never use flash or artificial lights. It gives a tungsten/cold sort of feel to the shot. Food shots should pop out, look alive, and make the viewer want to lick the photo.
- Set up the food in its natural setting—i.e. a cake slice goes well with a cup of steaming coffee, dumplings look good with *siopao* and other dim sum in the background, etc. Food should look clean and your setup should reflect that.
- Advice from one amateur to another: Know your camera well and shoot in natural light. I use a Canon Powershot G2, a point-and-shoot cam with manual settings. Nothing like what pros use.

My new class schedules are out. Call 9289296 or 9273008.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

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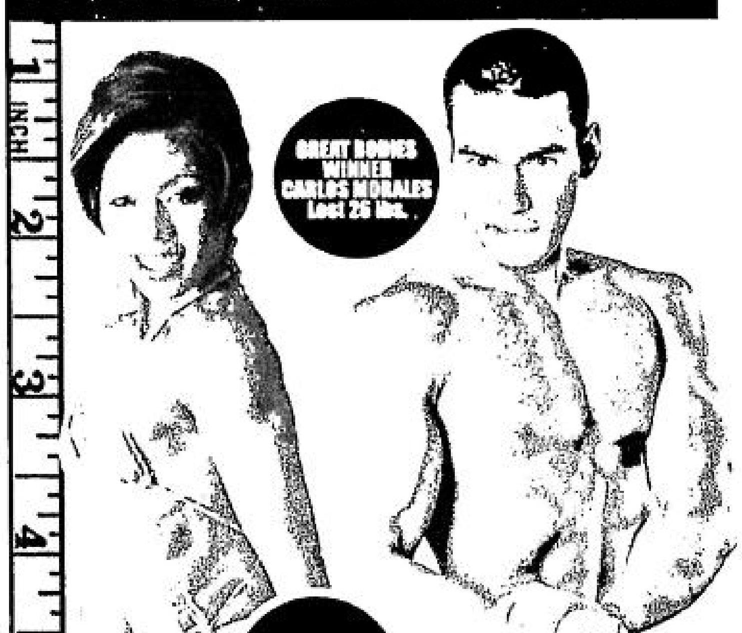
INCH
1
2
3
4
5
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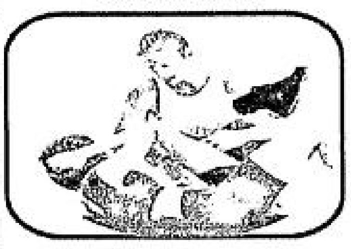

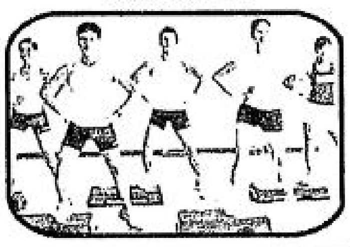

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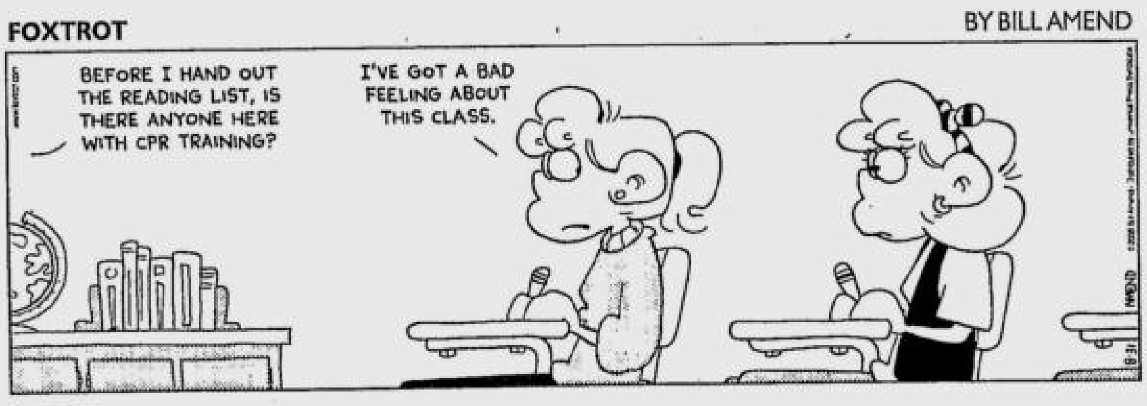
[illegible] CALOOCAN [illegible] CEBU [illegible] GREENHILLS [illegible] LEGASPI VILL. [illegible] MAKATI [illegible] MEGAMALL [illegible] PASAY ROAD [illegible] PASIG [illegible] SM NORTH [illegible] SUBIC [illegible] TRAFALGAR [illegible]

SKIN CENTERS: ALABANG [illegible] BINONDO [illegible] CALOOCAN [illegible] GREENHILLS [illegible] MALATE [illegible]
MEGAMALL [illegible] PASAY RD. [illegible] PASIG [illegible]

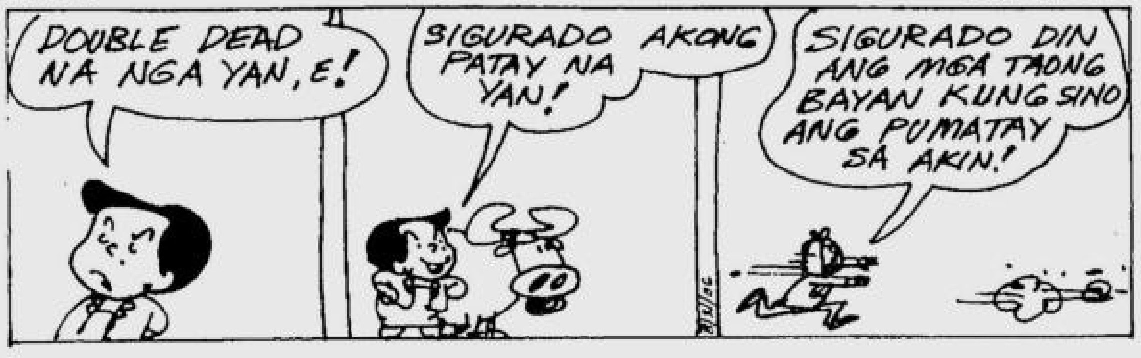
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


BEFORE I HAND OUT THE READING LIST, IS THERE ANYONE HERE WITH CPR TRAINING?
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS CLASS.

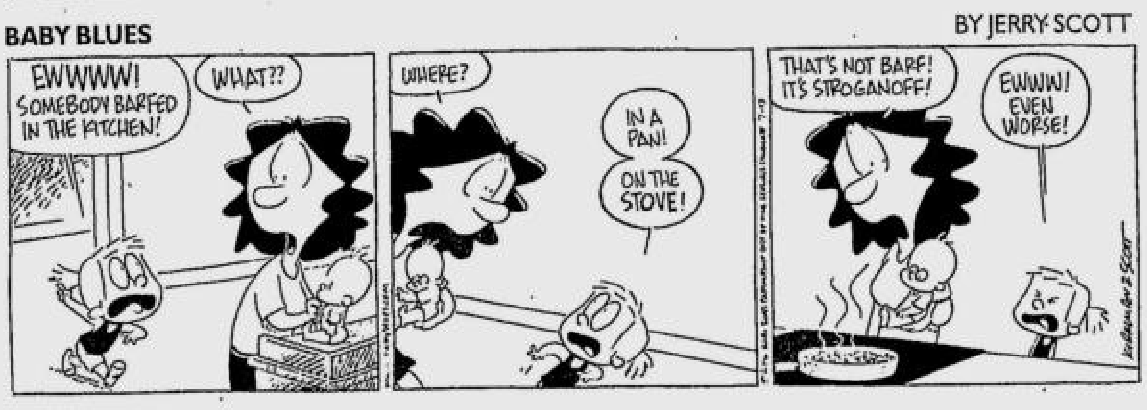
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DOUBLE DEAD NA NGA YAN, E!
SIGURADO AKONG PATAY NA YAN!
SIGURADO DIN ANG MGA TAONG BAYAN KUNG SINO ANG PUMATAY SA AKIN!

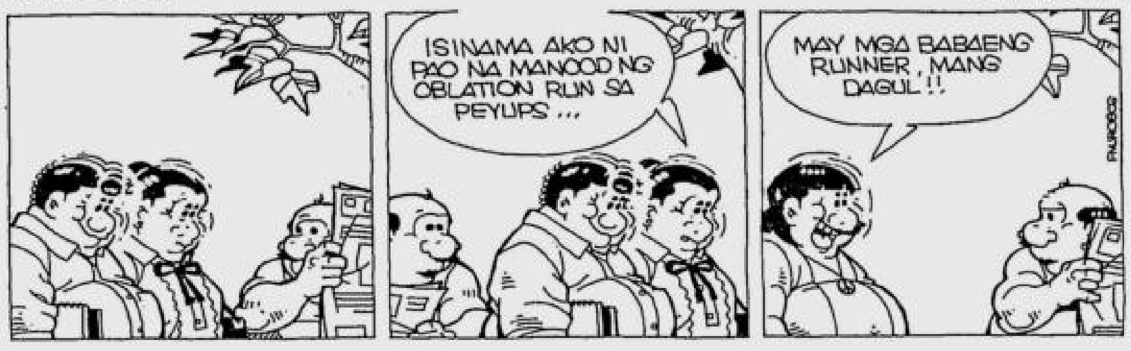
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


EWWWW! SOMEBODY BARFED IN THE KITCHEN!
WHAT??
WHERE?
IN A PAN!
ON THE STOVE!
THAT'S NOT BARF! IT'S STROGANOFF!
EWWW! EVEN WORSE!

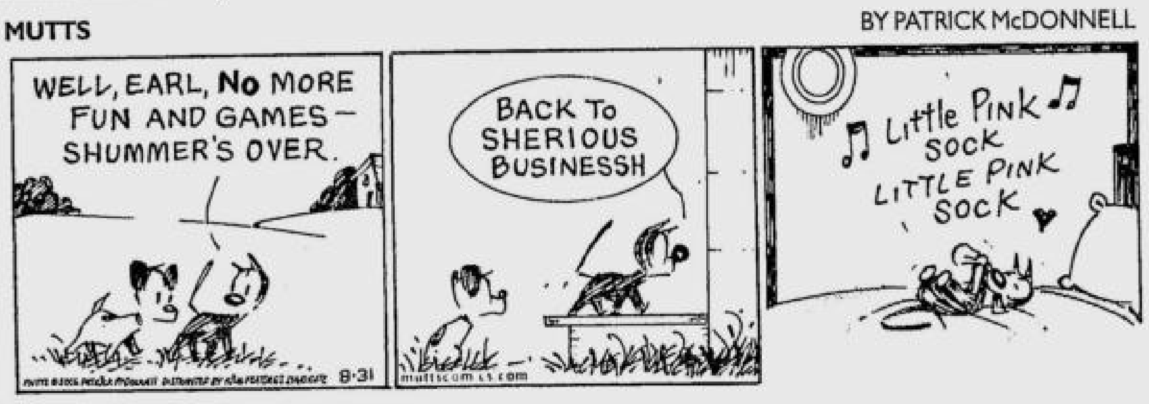
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ISINAMA AKO NI PAO NA MANOOD NG OBLATION RUN SA PEYUPS ...
MAY MGA BABAENG RUNNER, MANG DAGUL !!

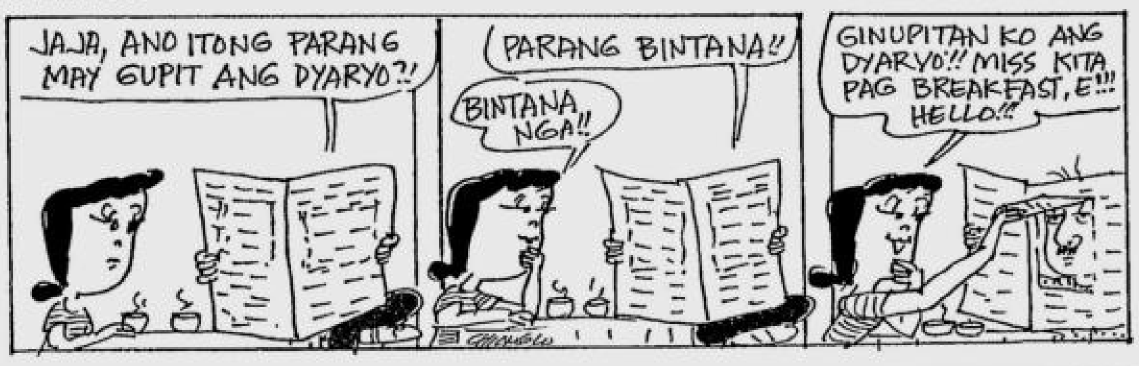
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WELL, EARL, No MORE FUN AND GAMES— SHUMMER'S OVER.
BACK To SHERIOUS BUSINESSH
Little Pink SOCK LITTLE PINK SOCK
8·31
muttscomics.com

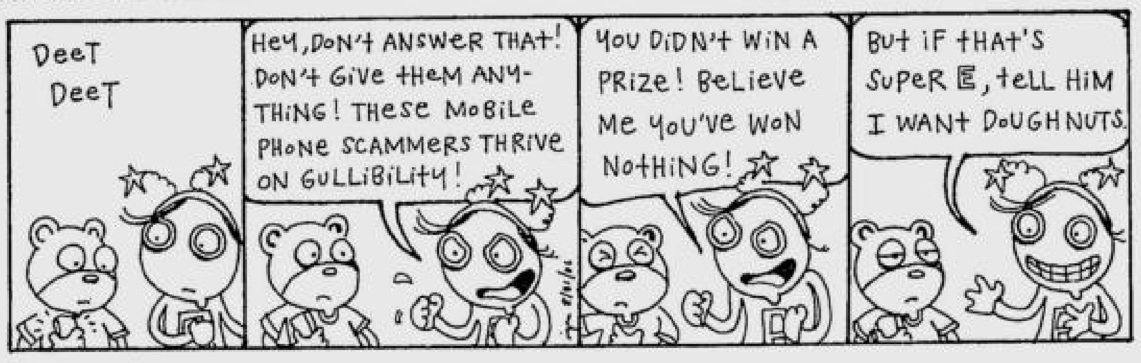
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, ANO ITONG PARANG MAY GUPIT ANG DYARYO?!
PARANG BINTANA!!
BINTANA NGA!!
GINUPITAN KO ANG DYARYO!! MISS KITA PAG BREAKFAST, E!!! HELLO!!

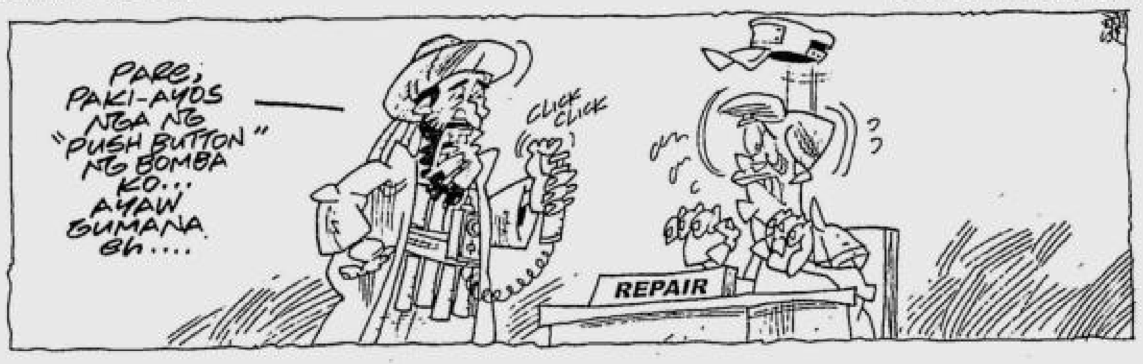
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DeeT DeeT
Hey, DoN't ANSWER THAT! DON'T GiVe THEM ANYTHiNG! THese MoBiLe PHoNe SCAMMERS THRiVe ON GULLiBiLiTy!
You DiDN'T WiN A PRiZe! BeLieve Me You've WON NoTHiNG!
But iF THAT'S SuPeR E, TeLL HiM I WANT DOUGHNUTS.

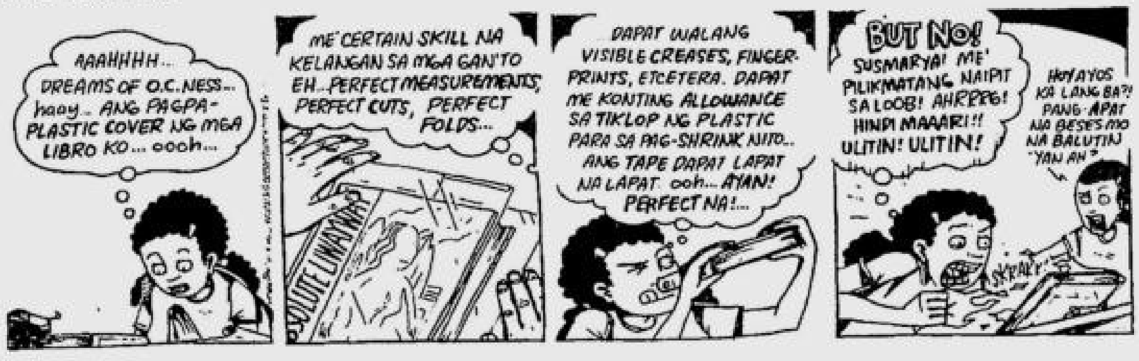
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PARE, PAKI-AYOS NGA NG "PUSH BUTTON" NG BOMBA KO... AYAW GUMANA EH....
CLICK CLICK
REPAIR

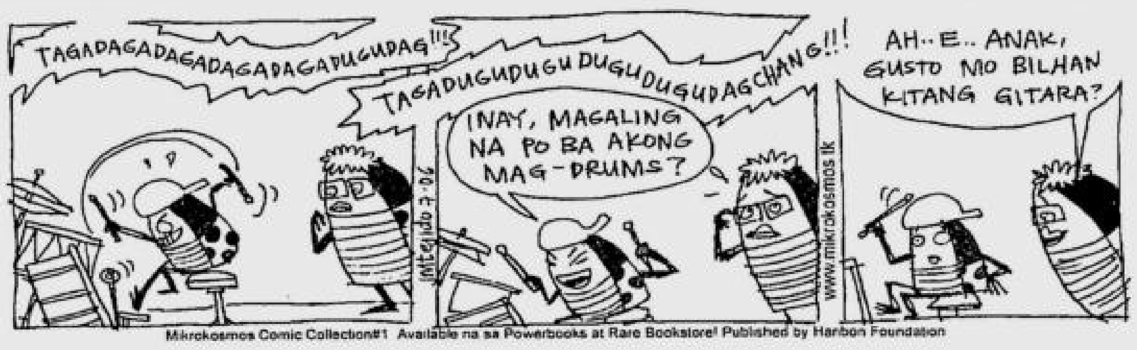
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AAAHHHH... DREAMS OF O.C.NESS... haay... ANG PAGPA-PLASTIC COVER NG MGA LIBRO KO... oooh...
ME CERTAIN SKILL NA KELANGAN SA MGA GAN'TO EH... PERFECT MEASUREMENTS, PERFECT CUTS, PERFECT FOLDS...
DAPAT WALANG VISIBLE CREASES, FINGERPRINTS, ETCETERA. DAPAT ME KONTING ALLOWANCE SA TIKLOP NG PLASTIC PARA SA PAG-SHRINK NITO... ANG TAPE DAPAT LAPAT NA LAPAT. ooh... AYAN! PERFECT NA!...
BUT NO! SUSMARYA! ME' PILIKMATANG NAIPIT SA LOOB! AHRRGG! HINDI MAAARI!! ULITIN! ULITIN!
HOY AYOS KA LANG BA?! PANG-APAT NA BESES MO NA BALUTIN 'YAN AH?
SKRAK!

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TAGADAGADAGADAGADAGADAGADUGUDAG!!!
TAGADUGUDUGU DUGUDUGUDAGCHANG!!!
INAY, MAGALING NA PO BA AKONG MAG-DRUMS?
AH.. E.. ANAK, GUSTO MO BILHAN KITANG GITARA?
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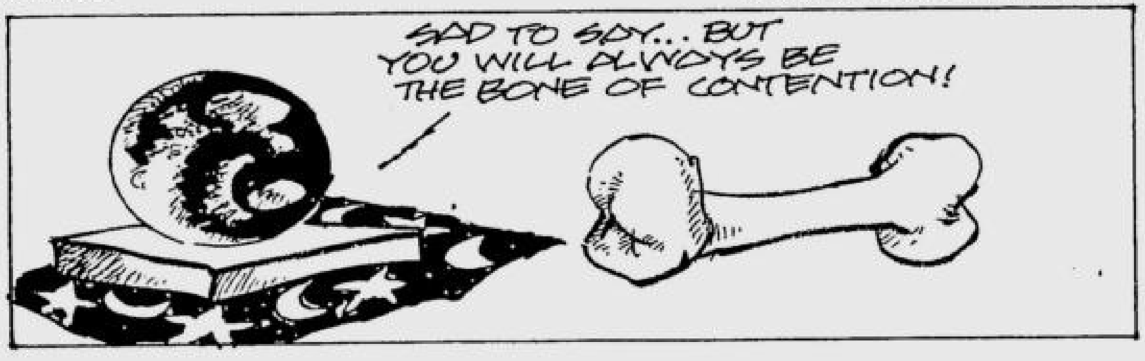
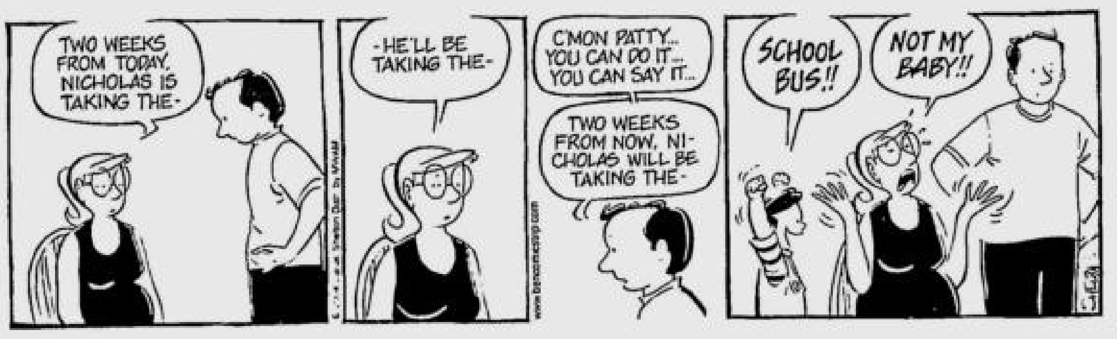
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SAD TO SAY... BUT YOU WILL ALWAYS BE THE BONE OF CONTENTION!

BEN

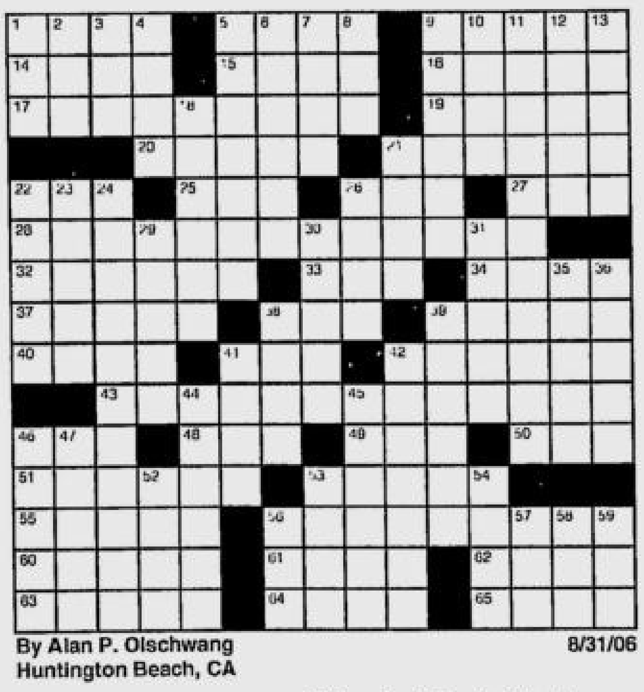
BY DANIEL SHELTON


TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY, NICHOLAS IS TAKING THE-
-HE'LL BE TAKING THE-
C'MON PATTY... YOU CAN DO IT... YOU CAN SAY IT...
TWO WEEKS FROM NOW, NICHOLAS WILL BE TAKING THE-
SCHOOL BUS!!
NOT MY BABY!!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Lobster traps
5 Caroled
9 Chocolate tree
14 Now!
15 DCCLI doubled
16 Olfactory stimulation
17 Start of Evan Esar quip
19 Big rigs
20 Old hag
21 Cut in half
22 Local pol.
25 South American tuber
26 Baltimore paper
27 Palindromic sibling
28 Part 2 of quip
32 Since last time
33 Avant-garde French artist
34 Israeli folk dance
37 Tapestry in "Hamlet"
38 Part 3 of quip
39 Reigned
40 Goddess of fertility
41 Former space station
42 Dwell
43 Part 4 of quip
46 Hail to Horace
48 Begley and Begley
49 __ polloi
50 Program file extension
51 Aer __ (Irish airline)
53 Inductee's boss
55 Tiny bits
56 End of quip
60 Great __ Lake
61 Hair cluster
62 Sandusky's lake
63 Tall stories
64 Adamson's lioness
65 Clan division

DOWN
1 Dads
2 Bear: Sp.
3 Highlands hat
4 On __ (without guarantee)
5 Kissy-faced
6 God, in Hebrew text
7 Baseball team
8 Actress Scala
9 Luxor or Mirage
10 Mars to the Greeks
11 Grows excited
12 Italian friends
13 Tobacco kilns
18 Guttural warnings
21 Collide with
22 Dwight's rival
23 Deceivers
24 Injurious
26 Withered
29 Badger
30 Writer McMurtry
31 Keep quiet!
35 Updike novel, "Rabbit __"
36 Astaire's sister
38 Feels poorly
39 Call it quits
41 Pills, briefly
42 1929 Bebe Daniels movie
44 Practices recycling
45 Ties up at a dock
46 Elite social category
47 Stringed instrument
52 Donated
53 Synagogue
54 Scrapes (by)
56 French rel. fig.
57 Before
58 Actor Torn
59 Congeal



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
8/31/06

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

F	U	M	E	■	S	C	A	M	■	S	P	A	I	N
E	R	I	C	■	H	A	R	I	■	P	A	B	L	O
A	G	A	R	■	I	N	G	E	■	I	N	S	E	T
R	E	T	U	R	N	T	O	S	E	N	D	E	R	■
S	S	A	■	E	T	O	N	■	S	E	A	N	■	■
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A	R	E	C	A	■	■	A	L	E	■	S	E	A	L
W	I	S	H	Y	O	U	W	E	R	E	H	E	R	E
E	C	C	E	■	D	A	N	■	■	P	A	S	S	E
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■	H	A	N	D	L	E	W	I	T	H	C	A	R	E
S	A	D	I	E	■	L	I	R	R	■	A	L	T	O
B	L	E	S	S	■	A	P	I	A	■	S	T	E	N
A	S	S	E	T	■	M	E	T	S	■	T	A	L	E

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8/31/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong, dynamic energy that you put to good use. You genuinely want to help others. Fortunately, you know how to generate publicity to do this. Because of this, you are often influential in an important way. Personally, you're fun to be around. People like you. Focus on your closest relationships and partnerships this year. Something important can happen here.

Birthdate of: Chris Tucker, actor; Deborah Gibson, actress/composer; Richard Gere, actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The hardest part of parenting is the inevitable feeling of inadequacy and shortcomings. The guilt! Don't give in to this now. After all, you're only doing the best you can.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Parents or family members might make you feel inferior in some way or that you're letting someone down. In truth, the only person who can make you feel like this is yourself.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't second-guess yourself in matters having to do with relatives, siblings and neighbors. Of course, you're not perfect. But who is?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your financial judgment is definitely off today. This is not a good day to promote important business and commerce. In fact, you might want to double-check all major purchases.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel discouraged with yourself or guilty about something. That's because you're comparing yourself with an ideal. No one can live up to ideals. Relax!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Something someone says seems to express your worst fears about yourself. Horrors! But this isn't true. Sometimes we hate ourselves; sometimes we love ourselves. It's the human condition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Perhaps you feel let down or disappointed by a friend. Perhaps a friend feels this way about you. Let it go. This is the inevitable nature of friendships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't let your boss, a teacher, a parent or an authority figure put you down. What do they know? Life is like a tin of sardines, all of us are looking for the key.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Do not let anyone belittle you for your own beliefs. You don't have to agree with others. However, you don't have to make others agree with you. Just relax.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might feel cheated or misused with regard to shared property or how you handle the responsibilities for somebody. Since your self-respect is all that matters, trust your own gut judgment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Try to make today as simple as possible in every way. It's all too easy to feel overwhelmed by practically anything! It's not a day of robust confidence.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might feel that your coworkers let you down today. Ask yourself: Were your expectations realistic? Remember that any unexpressed expectation is a guarantee for disappointment.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

	6					4		
	2						1	9
7			8	9				
			1		9	6		
		8	2		3	5		
		5	6		8			
				6	1			4
1	4						9	
		2					7	

Difficulty Level ★★★
8/31

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

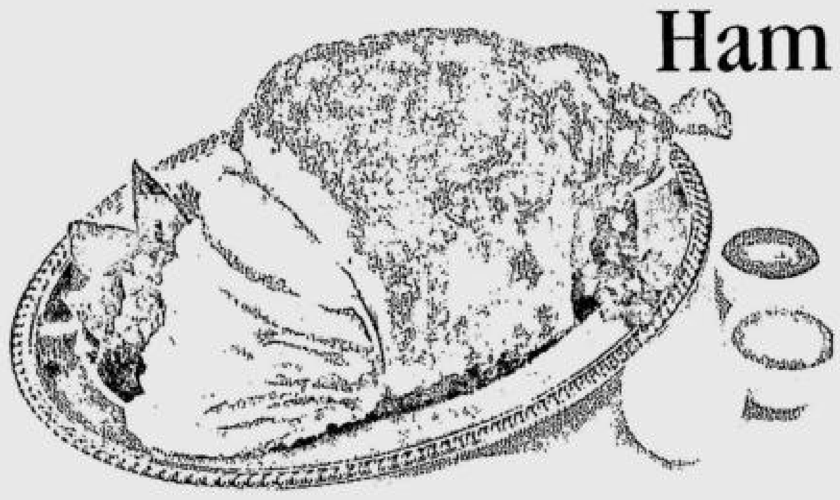
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	2	9	6	5	8	1	4	3
6	3	1	4	7	9	8	2	5
4	5	8	1	3	2	7	6	9
2	9	4	3	8	6	5	1	7
8	1	7	9	4	5	6	3	2
5	6	3	2	1	7	4	9	8
9	8	6	5	2	1	3	7	4
3	7	2	8	6	4	9	5	1
1	4	5	7	9	3	2	8	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

Ham kiosk at new mall

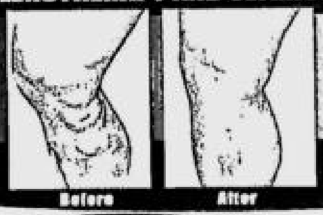

PLAZA Premium Baked Ham with choice of sauces

THE PLAZA PREMIUM BAKED HAM IS NOW available at SM Mall of Asia.

The Filipino lean ham, made from a 40-year-old family recipe by The Plaza's gourmet chefs, is available as Hamwiches at the Mall of Asia. It may be topped with a choice of sauces—Premium Glaze, Wasabe Mayo, Sweet Mustard and Gutsy Garlic and served with freshly baked classic or whole wheat *pan de sal*.

Cured in a special formula then lightly wood-smoked with assorted herbs and spices, and oven-baked and glazed, the ham is also available as whole leg and ball, suitable as gift for special occasions.

You may also get some sliced pieces to take home at The Plaza Premium Baked Ham Kiosk, CT 102, G/F, Entertainment Mall, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Call 7290003.



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Savings account suitable for small bank depositors

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CONSUMER

A FEW MONTHS AGO, REP. JOSEPH A. Santiago came out with a list of charges bank clients have to pay for using automated teller machines, even just to find out their accounts' balances. The rates ranged from P5 to P11.

As we pointed out in an earlier column, the rates charged by banks for ATM use often exceeded the interest earned by their savings account.

Depositors also know that banks impose so many charges that people find their accounts dwindling to nothing for seemingly no reason. People who thought they were being prudent by not touching their savings account found that, instead of their money growing, it had actually shrunk because of bank service charges.

And, of course, many banks not only require high initial deposits but they also set maintaining balances. Depositors are charged if their accounts fall below that amount.

For ordinary wage earners, it is basically just the convenience and security of using the ATM that make them put their money in the bank. Otherwise, we would probably see more people going back to the old practice of keeping their money in old socks.

But now Citibank Savings, an affiliate of Citibank, N.A. and a member of Citigroup, has come up with Power-Packed Savings Account. All those who wish for more reasonable alternatives to current banking practices, particularly ordinary wage earners who must make every peso count, will probably be glad to hear about its winning features: low initial deposit, no maintaining balance, no ATM transaction fees and interest rate as high as five percent per year.

Power Savings gives depositors access to over 6,500 ATMs nationwide via the BancNet, MegaLink and Expressnet networks.

Unfortunately, at the moment, there are still only a few Citibank Savings branches. But other branches are set to open soon.

For information, call Ayala Avenue-Paseo de Roxas, the flagship branch, at 8173771, 8410256, 8122817, 8151544, 8122815, 8173514.

Mobile telemarketing

Has telemarketing moved into the realm of mobile communication? I got a text message from somebody who said she was with Chinatrust Bank. She was offering some service called "Salary Stretch Program." When I asked how she got my mobile number, she did not reply.

This is worrisome. It is bad enough that on any given day you get all sorts of calls on your landline with special offers and "deals" that they think you can't refuse. But if they are also starting to move into mobile communication then any hopes of privacy may be totally lost.

Expiration date

Reader Michelle Cruz wanted to know if snack packages were required to carry expiration dates. She said Jack & Jill products did not have the information. "URC must place manufacturing date and expiration date for the safety of consumers..."

Responding for URC, Viveca R. Singson, JG Summit Holdings Inc. corporate communications manager, said "open coded manufacturing and expiry dates are not required for snacks." She said information on requirements such as this were available at the website of the Bureau of Food and Drugs—www.bfad.gov.ph.

But she added, "Please rest assured that Universal Robina Corporation... is consistently adhering to the high standards of quality and freshness that we have maintained throughout our 50 years. For more information, please check www.urc.com.ph."

Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor

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1ST ASIAN "ICES" HALL OF FAME AWARDEE

1. SEPT 4 - 8 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC CAKE DECORATING - (P11,000 for whole course)
P4,000 - SEPT 4 - 5 - Learn 10 diff. kinds of icing flowers, figure piping. Bake & decorate your basket weave cake using boiled icing.
P2,750 - SEPT 6 - Bake & decorate your own character birthday cake using star tips, simple borders & icing flowers.
P4,500 - SEPT 7 - 8 - Wedding cake assembly: Bake & decorate your own 2 tiered wedding cake using fancy borders, scrolls strings & icing flowers NEXT SCHED: OCT 2 - 6
2. SEPT 9, 16 & 23 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING FOR DIABETICS
P3,000 - SEPT 9 - Flaky (kalskis) Empanada, Coffee Cheese Cake, Chocolate Nut Pie, Pineapple Flower Cake, Lemonpie. NEXT SCHED: OCT 7
P3,000 - SEPT 16 - Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat & Raisin Bread NEXT SCHED: OCT 14
P3,000 - SEPT 23 - Brownie Supreme, Choco and Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Spiced Raisin and Chewy Golden Cookies NEXT SCHED: OCT 21
3. SEPT 11 - 14 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - (P11,000)
New method on Gumpaste Flowers, Objects, Marzipan, Ribbon Insertion, Finest String Works, Lace Pieces, New Recipe of Fondant & Chocolate Fondant. NEXT SCHED: OCT 9 - 12
4. SEPT 13 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - (P5,000)
Using Lace Mats, New Rolling Pin W/ Designs, Swags & Ribbons, Non-Stick boards w/ Flowers & veiners & Quilling. NEXT SCHED: OCT 11
5. SEPT 15 // 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM - NEW CAKES - Latest pound cake w/ sour cream, Piña Colada
Mocha Cake w/ egg white mocha icing, Chocolate Cherry Cake - (P3,000) NEXT SCHED: OCT 13
6. SEPT 18 - 22 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - (P13,000. For whole course)
P2,600 - SEPT 18 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P2,600 - SEPT 19 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamon.
P2,850 - SEPT 20 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & raisin bread.
P2,850 - SEPT 21 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart.
P2,600 - SEPT 22 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons. NEXT SCHED: OCT 16 - 20
7. SEPT 18 - 22 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE. (P5,000)
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling. b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium. c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies; d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes *"COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS (P10,000) by appointment"* NEXT SCHED: OCT 16 - 20
8. SEPT 25 - 29 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - (P14,000. For whole course)
Learn to make 25 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration.
P3,000 - SEPT 25 - All Sponge Cakes: Nelusko cake, Black Forest cake, Decadence cake, Fan Torte cake, Fruit Torte cake.
P3,000 - SEPT 26 - All Chiffon Cakes: Mango cake, Ube cake, Pistachio cake, Rocky Road cake, Coffee Crunch cake.
P3,000 - SEPT 27 - All Butter Cakes: Butter Rum cake, Carrot cake, Kahlua cake, Moist Chocolate cake, Special Fruit cake.
P3,000 - SEPT 28 - Cheesecakes: Blueberry, Mango, Tiramisu, Cookies & Cream, New York Cheesecake.
P3,000 - SEPT 29 - Meringues: Sansrival, Solothurn, Queens Torte, Braso de Mercedez, Pineapple Meringue Pie
NEXT SCHED: OCT 23 - 27 / FOR SPECIAL SCHEDULE PLS. CALL
9. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW COURSE & LATEST GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P3,000. BY APPOINTMENT

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See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2362. Series of 2006

A place for techies and foodies

VISIT Tech Lounge where you will find Pho Hoa, Jack's Loft, Compass Internet and a host of other computer shops.

A NEW PLACE WHERE TECHIES AND gourmands can chill has opened at the East Wing Level 1 of Robinsons Galleria.

Tech Lounge has computer and electronics stores such as AV Surfer, Electronics Depot, Lucky, Great Lakes, ARX Computer, AWD Computer, Complink, Brochiere, Media Play, Informate, Microstation, Internet Manila, The Electronics Boutique and CD-R King; Compass Internet and telecom centers Globe and Smart.

The area also has Bo's Coffee Club, Our Father's Coffee, Subway, Juice Avenue, Dimsum n' Dumplings, Jack's Loft, and Pho Hoa.

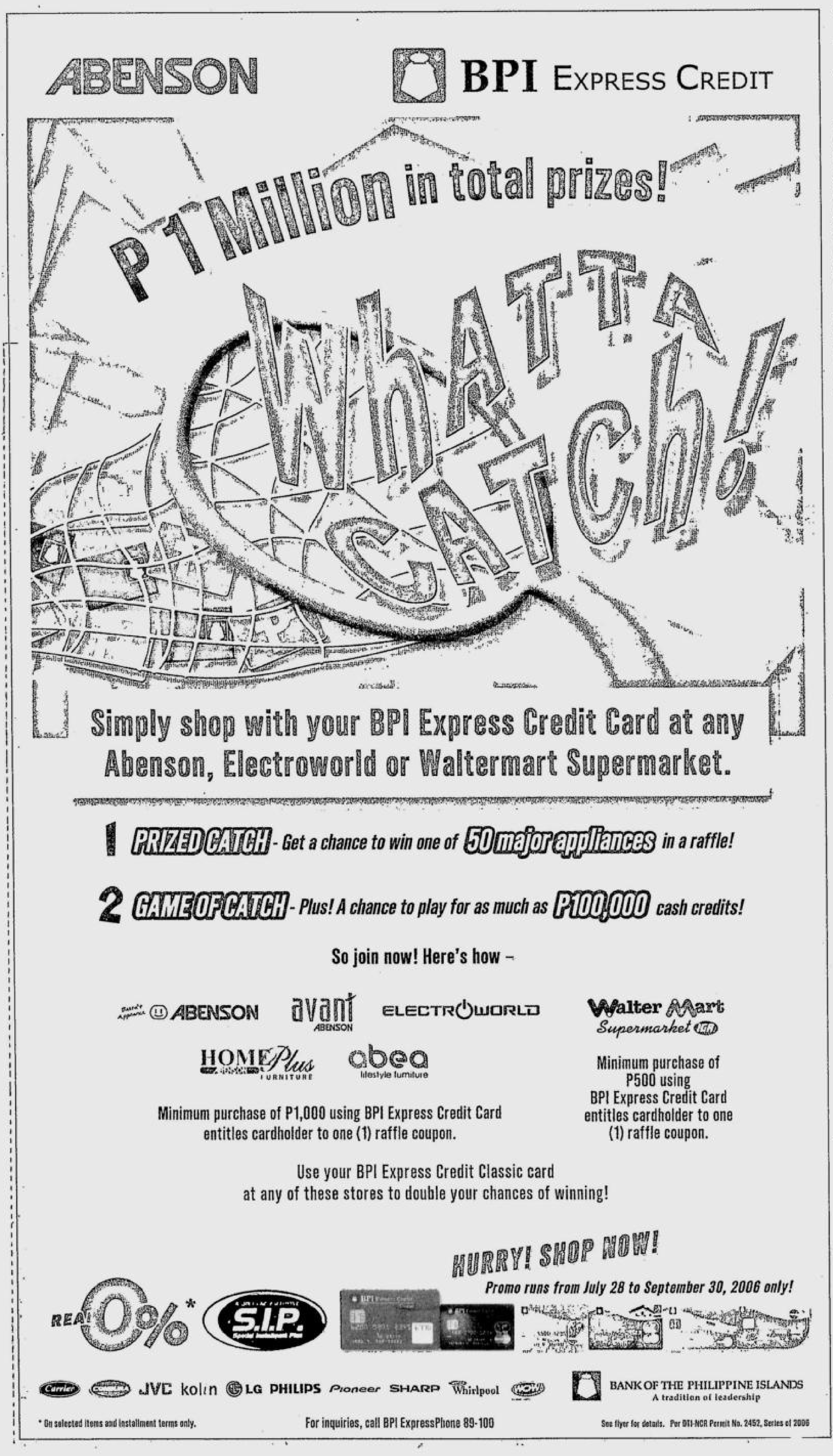
Visit Tech Lounge at the East Wing Level 1 of Robinsons Galleria. Wi-fi facility is available absolutely free of charge.

CHIA Ga Ot Song Dau Phung, Kung Pao chicken with peanuts and red chili

PHO BO, beef noodle soup with herbs and vegetables

PAN-SEARED Peppered Roast Beef

JACK'S Cheesecake



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Ice cream without the guilt

ROBBY MANANQUIL and Valerie Delos Santos go wild over their favorite indulgence: Selecta Lite Cookies and Cream

TWO OF THE COUNTRY's premier fashion models, Robby Mananquil and Valerie delos Santos, are fun-loving, down-to-earth young people who take delight in such simple pleasures as a scoop of good old ice cream.

Both discovered by renowned designer Inno Sotto, Mananquil and De los Santos have appeared in countless fashion shows and ads.

But despite the discipline and hard work required in their profession, these stylish jetsetters also take time to relax and pamper themselves. One of their favorite treats? Ice cream.

And being such ice-cream aficionados, it's no wonder they're both excited by the all-new Selecta Lite Ice Cream—a light, low-fat and low-sugar version of their favorite indulgence.

"It's great that we can enjoy our favorite ice cream flavors with Selecta Lite without worrying about the calories," says De los Santos, whose favorite flavor is Double Dutch. Mananquil, on the other hand, wants them all.

"Cookies n' Cream and Very Rocky Road remind me of my first memories of ice cream. But I'm also going with Double Dutch, since it lets me have both chocolate and vanilla at the same time."

Like Mananquil and Delos Santos, ice-cream enthusiasts everywhere can indulge their cravings with the new Selecta Lite. It's 94 percent fat-free and has 35 percent less sugar, so it's sure to please every ice-cream lover—without the guilt.

A SCOOP of Selecta Lite Very Rocky Road ice cream in a crispy cone is one of Delos Santos' favorite treats.

Sterling silver anniversary concert

MCDONALD'S CELEBRATES ITS 25th anniversary with "A Sterling Night of Music," a dinner concert on Sept. 6 at the Makati Shangri-La.

The dinner concert is a fundraiser for McDonald's Charities, the charity arm of McDonald's that promotes the rights of Filipino children to education.

Accompanied by a 33-piece orchestra under the baton of musical director Gerard Salonga, McDonald's Philippines president and chair George T. Yang will perform opera pieces and contemporary hits.

Other performers are megastar and McDonald's endorser Sharon Cuneta, concert queen Pops Fernandez, 2004 American Idol first runner-up Jasmine Trias, and stage artist Michael Williams, the concert's stage director.

Key projects of McDonald's Charities' are Bahay Bulilit day care centers (in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and local government units), Bright Minds Read Program and McDonald's World Children's Day.

Aside from McDonald's, "A Sterling Night of Music" is also sponsored by Coca Cola Export Corporation. Other sponsors are ABS-CBN 2, GMA 7, DDB Philippines, Foster Chicken, Havi Food Services and Genosi. Gold sponsors are Globe Quest, SGV, Middleby and Technolux.

Tickets are at P8,000 each. A table of 10 costs P60,000. Call 8154708.

GEORGE T. Yang, trailblazer of food franchising in the Philippines, is also a tenor.

LIFESTYLE

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Text us your feedback:
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TRADITIONAL Catalan sausages are sold at La Boqueria food market near the bustling street of La Rambla.

SPANISH chef Pau Gasco teaches tourists to learn and discover the secrets of Catalan cuisine, its ingredients and origins.

Lessons on the wonders of [illegible] cuisine

Attending a cooking class is a unique opportunity to learn first-hand that simplicity is the secret of Barcelona's traditional specialties

Text and photos by Vangie Baga-Reyes

WITH FOOD BEING A major tourist draw, Barcelona, the second largest city in Spain and the Catalan capital, has become one of the country's most popular destinations. In fact, Singapore Airlines now flies to the Catalan capital three times a week via Singapore.

Catalan cuisine offers a range of gastronomic wonders to delight the palate. The region's cooking may be divided into two distinct types. People living in the mountains and hinterland use a lot of meat and sausages, dairy products, game and mushrooms. Coastal areas use mainly seafood, often accompanied by rice and vegetables.

To discover the secrets of traditional Catalan cuisine, its ingredients and origin, one can enroll in interactive cooking classes.

"For people who love to travel and cook, here is an opportunity to combine both passions while in Barcelona," says Claes Akerblom, Catalonia tourism director for international strategy.

"Attending a cooking class here is a

LESSONS/ D2

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[illegible]

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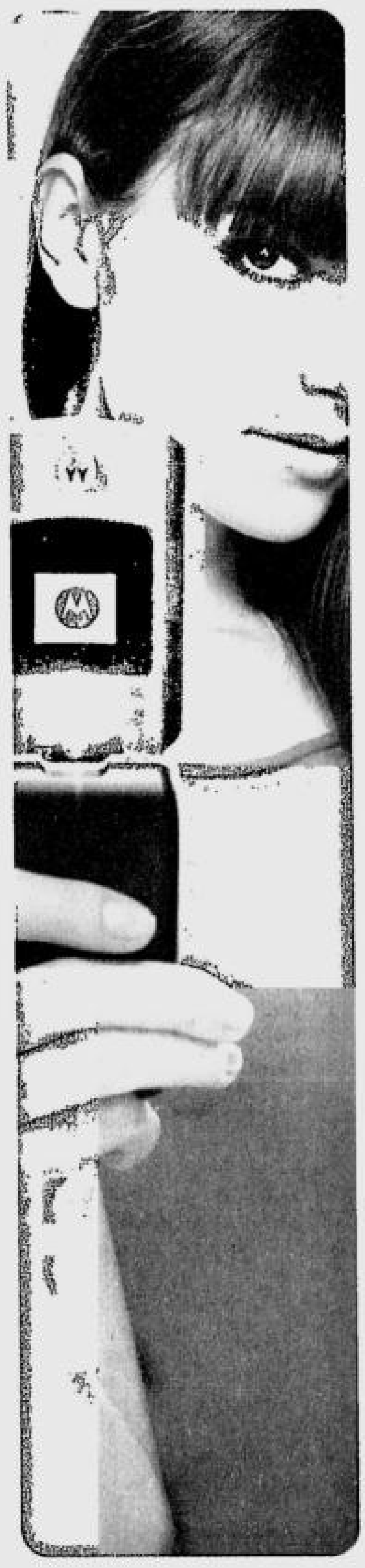

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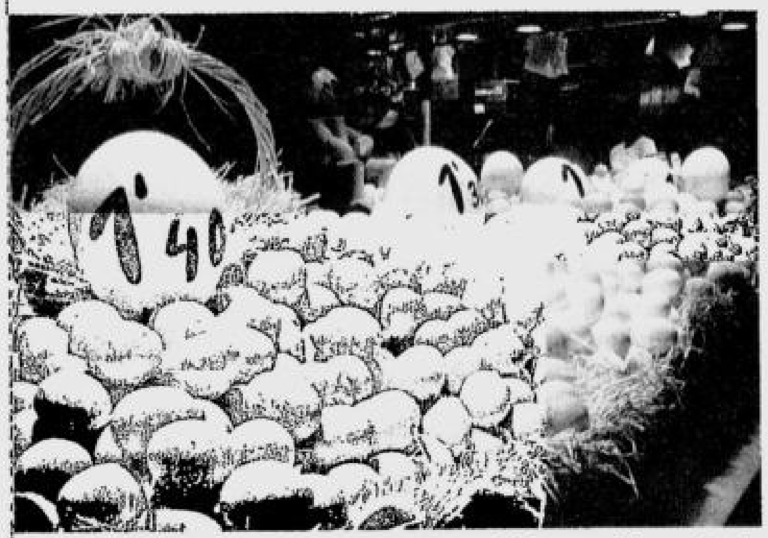
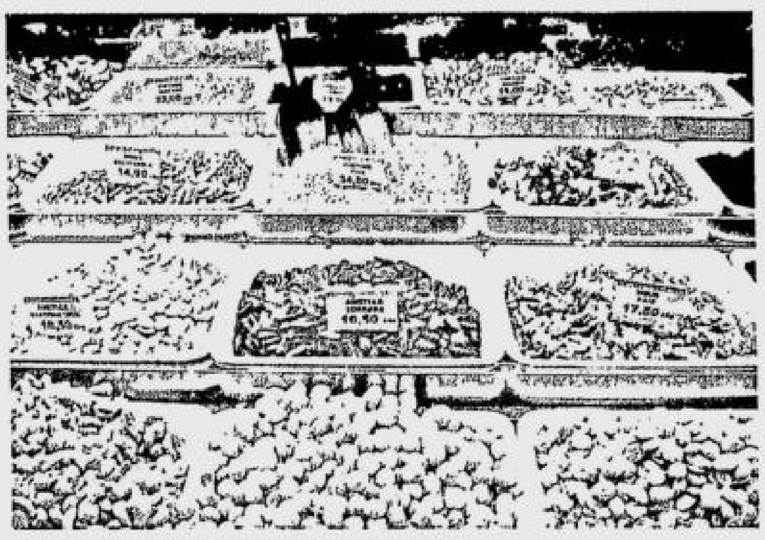


CATALAN markets showcase the quality and richness of the region's produce like eggs, vegetables, fruits...

... seafood, meat...



... and nuts that change with the seasons.

Lessons on the wonders of cuisine

From page D1

unique opportunity to understand the essence of traditional homemade specialties of Catalan cuisine," he says.

Cook and Taste is a distinguished cooking school that regularly gives afternoon classes. Spanish chef Pau Gasco conducts classes in an elegant yet practical kitchen, with a gorgeous granite island that can accommodate up to 16 students.

One side of the room has a huge glass window overlooking the busy street of La Rambla, while the other side has a storage closet and freezer filled with veggies, sauces and meat.

Gasco promises his guests "you will be creating some of the most delicious, yet simple dishes we have in Catalonia."

Esqueixada de Bacalao (Cod Salad), Rossejat de Fideus (Browned Noodles) and Crema Catalana (Catalan Cream) are some of the dishes that keep students of the three-hour class busy.

Olive oil, Gasco says, is one of the main ingredients in Mediterranean cuisine.

SEAFOOD is used in many Catalan traditional dishes, like Esqueixada de Bacalao or cod salad.

"We just can't live without olive oil," adds the chef, who gives his instructions in English. He spices up the session with a little background on the rich history and culture of the food and the ingredients.

"To know the kind of olive oil that you're getting, read the label," he says. "If it says *oli d'oliva verge* (virgin olive oil), that means the oil is of premium quality and natural. If the word extra appears, it means the oil has a maximum acidic content of 0.8 percent, which guarantees its quality. If *refinat* (refined) is there, it means the oil has been treated but [still] suitable for consumption."

Gasco prepares Cod Salad to emphasize seafood is part of Catalans' traditional diet. Catalonia, with its seafaring culture, has always made the most of the resources of the Mediterranean.

As for meat, most of the sausages in Catalonia are made from pork. *Girella*, made with lamb and very popular in Barcelona, is among the few exceptions.

Crema Catalana, artfully arranged on a plate, is similar to crème brûlée. Gasco says, "Crema Catalana is now so widespread that it is no longer possible to trace it to a particular location."

Originally, it was a traditional dessert on the feast of Saint Joseph, March 19. Women in the family—aunts, grandmothers or unmarried sisters—prepared it. But now Crema Catalana is eaten all year round as dessert at almost any meal. It is served in small earthenware dishes with burnt, caramelized sugar on top.

Typical

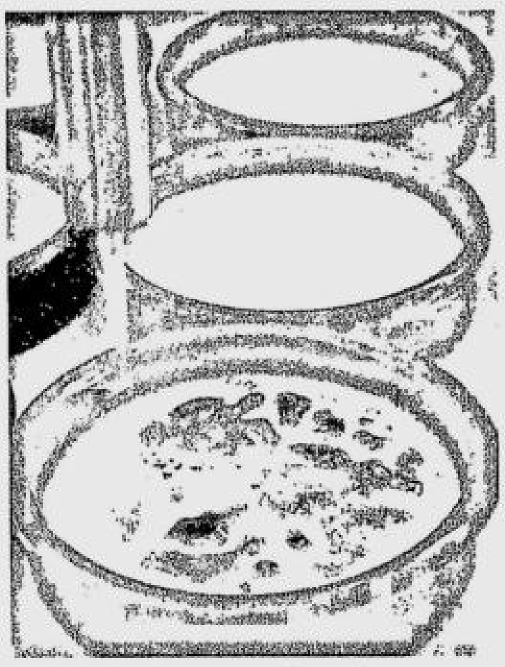
Gasco concludes the session by saying Catalan food usually prepared at home is *pa amb tomaquet*. It is made by moistening a piece of toasted bread, rubbing it with a tomato cut in half, drizzling it with extra-virgin olive oil and then adding a pinch of salt. It is eaten with home-produced pork sausages.

Gasco says the simplicity of this dish is not really representative of the richness of the region's cuisine, but it is traditional and special to the Catalan's.

SIA flies to Barcelona three times weekly (Monday, Wednesday, Friday evenings) via the ultra-modern Boeing 777-200 ER (Extended Range). For flight bookings and information, call 7568899 in Manila, 2326211 in Cebu or 2245608 in Davao. Check on promotional airfares at singaporeair.com

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

CHEF Gasco cooks browned noodles with fresh seafood in a large *paella* pan.



CREMA Catalana, served in small earthenware dish with burnt, caramelized sugar on top

Esqueixada de Bacalao (Cod Salad)

350 g of salted cod
1 spring onion
¼ red pepper
¼ green pepper
50 g black olives
50 g green olives
100 g black olive paste
20 g capers
2 anchovies
1 c olive oil
Salt

Soak the salted cod in cold water for three days, changing water every day. Squeeze it well and break it into little pieces. Chop the onion and both peppers finely. Mix them in a bowl together with the cod and both kinds of olives. Dress with a little oil and salt to taste.

In a different bowl, mix the black olive paste with the capers and anchovies. Add a little oil and blend.

Serve the salad and dress it with the mixture resulting from the blending.

Rossejat de Fideus (Browned Noodles)

300 g shrimp, peeled
150 g grouper or monk fish
350 g clams
1 onion, chopped
2 or 3 cloves of garlic
2 red tomatoes, peeled, chopped
150 ml olive oil
400 g noodles (angel hair)
Fish stock (double the volume of the noodles)

Pour in a large pan the noodles and the cloves of garlic peeled, and fry them until they are brown. Set aside.

Heat oil in the same pan and fry the shrimp until slightly browned. Transfer to plate and set aside.

Fry the slightly chopped onion in the same hot oil. Add salt. After a few minutes, add the tomato and fry over medium heat.

When the tomato starts to burn, stir in the monk fish and the clams. Add the stock and bring it to a boil. After two or three minutes, stir in the noodles and distribute them evenly. Add the shrimp and distribute the fish and the noodles evenly. Noodles can't be touched beyond this point.

Increase the heat from medium to high and cook for at least five minutes, rotating and swirling the pan to distribute the heat evenly. Reduce heat to minimum and cook at least seven more minutes.

Let it stand for about two minutes before serving.

Crema Catalana (Catalan Cream)

6 egg yolks
200 g sugar
1 liter milk
40 g starch
Lemon peel
1 stick cinnamon
Vanilla (optional)

Blend egg yolks and sugar producing a fine cream. Add 750 ml of milk and stir to get a good mixture. Add lemon peel and cinnamon. Heat it over medium-high heat in a saucepan.

Meanwhile, dissolve starch in the remaining milk and stir the mixture into the saucepan.

Bring to a boil, stirring all the time and set aside right before first bubble. Let it cool for a while, still stirring and distribute it in a little earthenware dishes before it completely cools down.

Showcase of Asian cooking

DINING OUT

QUEENS CRYSTAL GARDEN RESTAURANT offers not just authentic Indian cuisine, but also dishes from Indonesia and Singapore, as well as Asian fusion. Its international chefs have come up with a menu consisting of 250 dishes, of which 80 are pure vegetarian. Indian food lovers can try Papadum, Tandoori Capsicum, Chicken Anarkali Pizza, Sheekh Kebab Mutton, Aloo Chat, among others. Other dishes are Rogan Josh, Mutton Vindaloo, Chicken Patiala, Grilled Dry Masala Fish, Shrimp Harra Masala, Fish Tava and Shrimp Hydrabadi. Vegetarians can have Chili Paneer, Makhani Dhal, Chollay Masala or Vegetable Manchurians. Queens carries a wide selection of wines. Queens Crystal Garden Restaurant is at 146-B Jupiter Street. It's open daily, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 6:30-10:30 p.m. and also delivers. Call 8951316 or 8951816.

EL COMEDOR, one of Manila's Spanish restaurants, has moved to Paseo de Magallanes, in the hub of the Magallanes Commercial Center. The restaurant, which is celebrating its 31st anniversary, serves traditional Spanish dishes that have given a modern flair. Specialties include Roast Suckling Pig or Cochinillo Asado. It was introduced in 1975 by the late Lourdes P. del Rosario, when she first opened El Comedor on Adriatico Street, Manila.

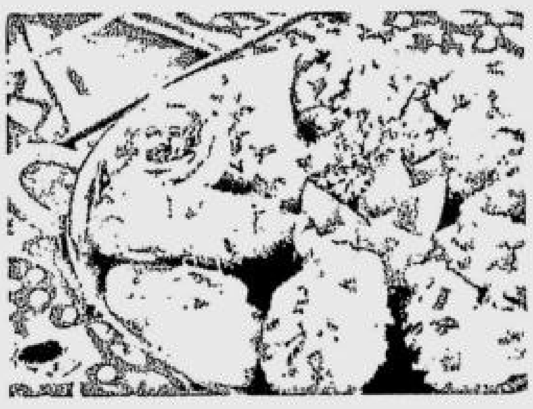
SAKAE SUSHI presents *kaminabe*, offering a choice of seafood, chicken or beef served with tofu, carrots, mushrooms, lettuce and onion stalks. *Nabe* in Japanese means pot. But, instead of the traditional stone pot, modern *kaminabe* is served in a special paper pot in white or off-white color. Sakae Sushi is at Crescent West Park, Global City and Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Call 8434891 or 8435452.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S The Tivoli presents "Goose Liver and Mushrooms" food promo, a la carte lunch and dinner menu, Sept. 5-18. It features goose liver from France and fresh mushrooms. Dishes include Truffle-infused Braised Duck Terrine on Goose Liver Sabayon, Millionaire's Salad with Pan-fried Goose Liver and Sauteed Chanterelles, Cream of Foie Gras with Trumpet Mushroom Powder, Traditional Beef Tenderloin Rossini on Grilled Portobello Mushroom with Sauteed Spinach and Mushroom Espuma, Pan-fried Pigeon Breast on Sweetbread Bean Stew and Cepe Mushrooms and Duck Liver Moussline. Call 7508888 local 2431 to 2433.

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL'S Café Jeepney presents a special a la carte menu of different types of *kaldereta*. Selections include the traditional Goat Meat Kaldereta, Salmon Kaldereta and a European-style Veal Kaldereta. Café Jeepney is open daily, 6 a.m.-12 midnight. It serves breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets. Call 8159711.

THE ADOBO REPUBLIC opened a new branch at 2069 Buencamino Alley, C. M. Recto St., Sampaloc, Manila, with young actors Maja Salvador, Dino Guevara and Pekto Nacua as guests. Also present was Manila Councilor Robert Ortega who led the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new branch is open daily 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Other Adobo Republic branches are in Makati and QC. New branches will open soon in Pasig City and Banawe, QC. For delivery, call 75-Adobo (23626).

LA MESA GRILL at SM Mall of Asia offers authentic Filipino dishes. It serves *lechon* with six different dips to choose from: garlic, *wansuy*-infused, Rikki's choice, spicy pork liver, curry mustard or sweet chili. Appetizers include Tahong with Cheese, Halaan a la Pobre, Scallops in Garlic Butter, Tokwa't Baboy, Tinapa Roll, Lumpiang Sisig and Sari-Saring Pampagana priced at P190. Pinoy favorites include Kare-kare, Beef Kaldereta, Bulalo, among others. Call 5560737.



QUEEN Crystal Garden Restaurant's Tandoori Capsicum

BIG SAVINGS ARE MORE THAN JUST YOUR LUCK!

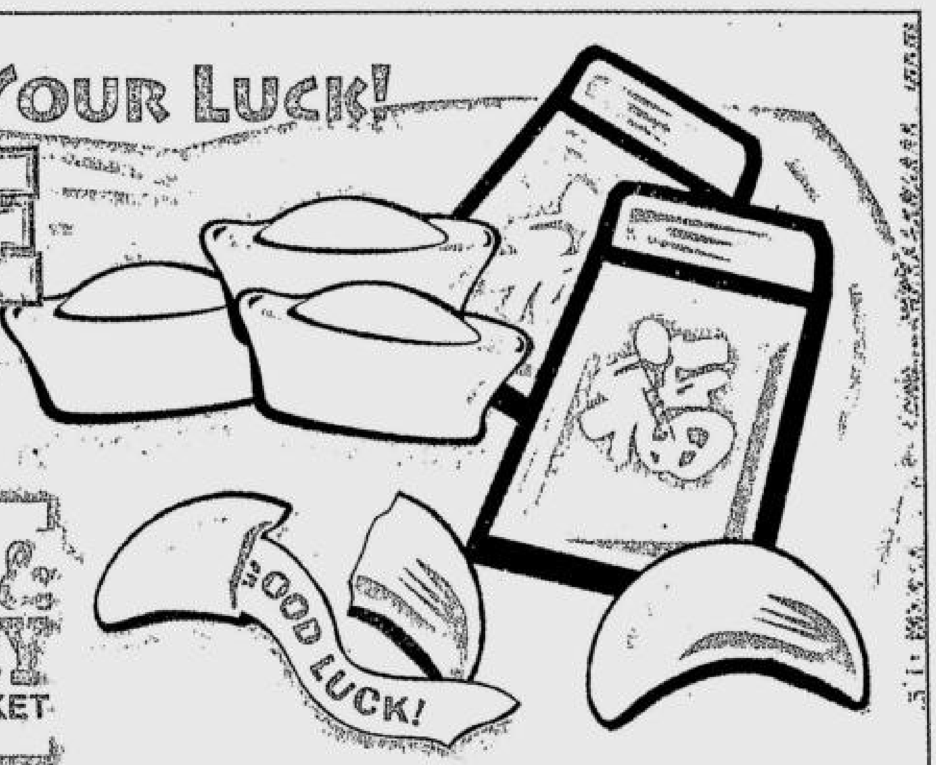
GOOD FORTUNE SALE

THE CHAIN MARTS!
SUPER VALUE STORES

MAKATI Supermart ALABANG

UniMart

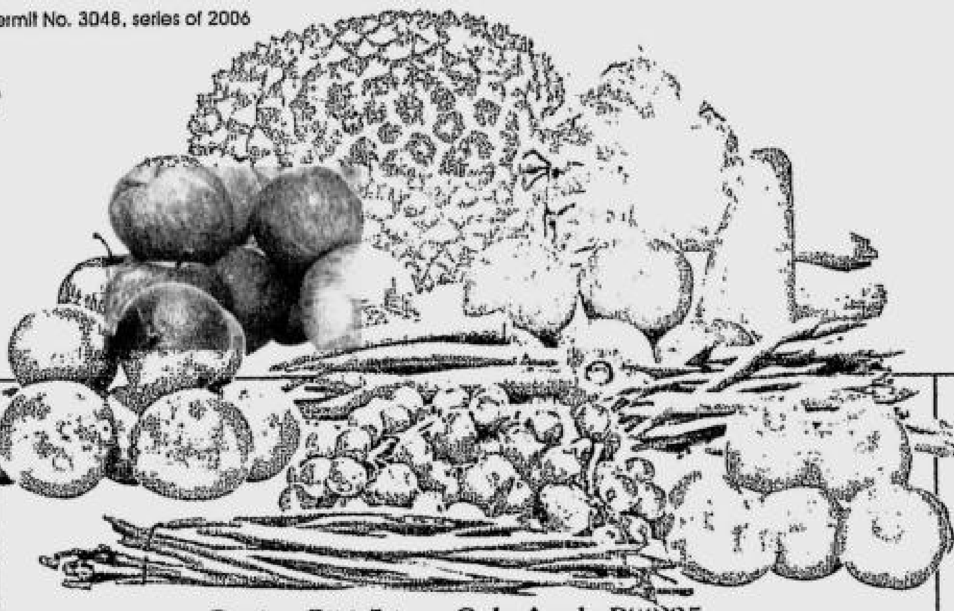
CASH & CARRY SUPERMARKET



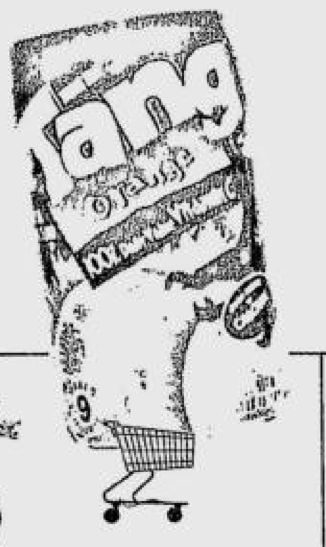
FROM AUG. 31 TO SEPT. 17, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3048, series of 2006

French's
Potato Sticks
Original Flavor, Pouch
453g P153.95/pk

S&W
Cream Style Corn
418g P24.75/can

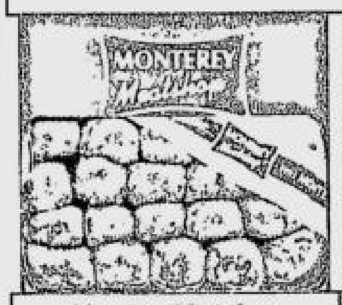


Durian P94.50/kg • Gala Apple P89.25/kg • Flame Seedless Grapes P180.50/kg • Japanese Corn P52.00/kg • Sitao P33.60/kg • Baguio Beans P42.00/kg • Baguio Tomatoes P68.25/kg • Baguio Cabbage P52.50/kg • Dalandan P26.25/kg • Okra P18.90/kg • Native Tomatoes P14.70/kg

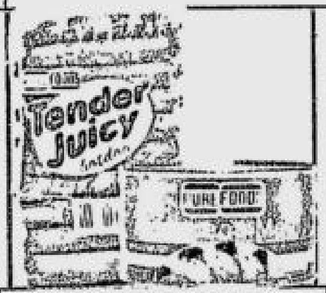


Tang
Orange Drink Mix
898g P185.50/bot

A1
Steak Sauce Original, Bold & Spicy
283g P156.50/bot



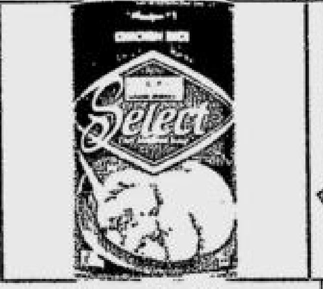
Monterey Meatshop
Beef Mechado P319.50/kg
Beef Ground Round P229.50/kg
Pork Longanisa Hamonado P166.50/kg
Hawaiian Roast P184.50/kg



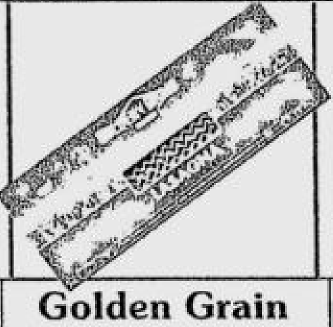
Purefoods
Chinese Style Luncheon Meat
350g P41.20/can
Tender Juicy Hotdog, Regular
1k P146.65/pk

Argentina
Chunky Corned Beef P25.35/can
Corned Beef P23.75/can
Century Tuna
Flakes in Vegetable Oil
Hot & Spicy 180g P23.15/can

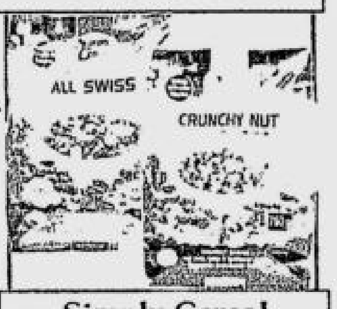
Magnolia
Chicken Burger P135.00/kg
Chicken Siomai P150.00/kg



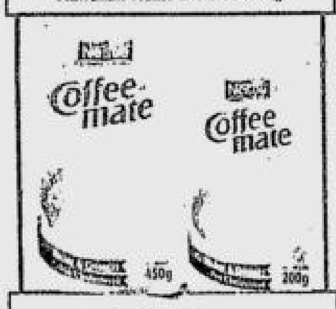
Campbell's
Select Chef Inspired Soup, Chicken Rice
527g P124.50 can



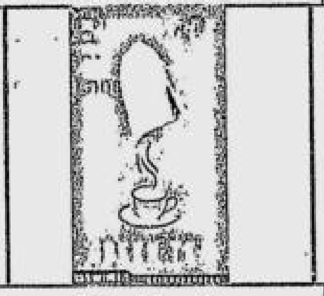
Golden Grain
Lasagna
454g P85.50/pk



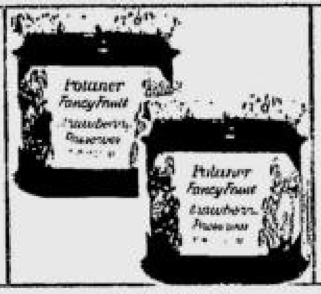
Simply Cereal
Apple & Cranberry, All Swiss, Crunchy Nut
750g P165.50/pk



Coffee-Mate
Coffee Creamer, The Original
450g P82.50/pouch 200g P38.25/bot
48x5g P77.30/pk 12x33g P103.75/pk



Butterfly
Green Tea GT 706
25x2g P112.50/pk



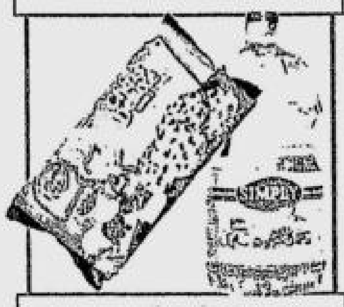
Polaner
Fancy Fruit, Strawberry Preserves
340g P110.50/bot

Gatorade
Thirst Quencher, Pink Lemonade
400ml P21.95/bot
Pet 500ml P27.50/bot

Harvey Fresh
Full Cream Milk, Tetra
1lt P47.95/brick
Lite Soya Milk, Tetra
1lt P61.50/brick

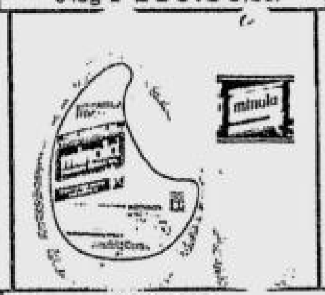
Sun Tropics
Premium Nectar, Mango, Guava
1.89lt P175.00/bot

Capri
Green Olives with Pimiento
350g P69.75/bot
Pitted 350g P65.75/bot



Simply
Pure Canola Oil 2lt P170.50/bot
Keebler
Chips Deluxe Cookies, Original
Soft Bath Chocolate Chip 510g P142.50/ea

Doña Elena
Olive Oil (in Plastic), Pure
5lt P1,580.00/bot
Pomace 5lt P960.00/bot
Extra Virgin 5lt P1,630.00/bot

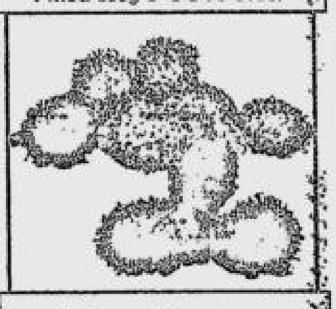


Minola
Cooking Oil, Plastic
3.2k P204.50/bot
Pet 1lt P58.50/bot

Marca Leon
100% Pure Vegetable Oil, Plastic
2k P209.00/bot 1.6k P106.75/bot
Corn Oil, Plastic
3.2k P308.00/bot 1.6k P160.00/bot

Mazola
Corn Oil
3.78lt P453.50/bot
1.42lt P175.00/bot

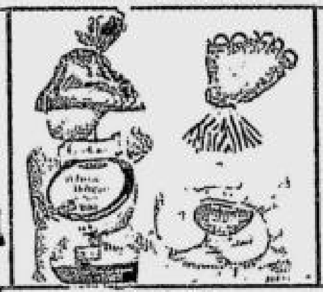
Singkamas
P18.90/kg



Rambutan
P47.25/kg

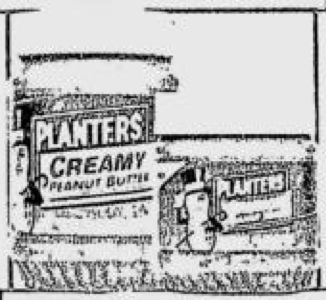
Kettle
Chips Spicy Thai
142g P122.95/pk 56g P64.50/pk
Bakes Potato Chips, Hickory Honey BBQ, Aged White Cheddar P153.50/pk

Nabisco Chips Ahoy!
Rich Chocolate
340g P103.50/pk
Chunky 425g P149.50/kg

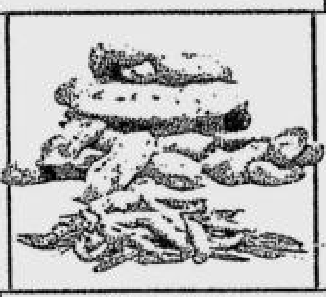


Gardenia
Soft Delight Pandesal
Family Pack 12's 300g P22.75/pk
High Fiber Whole Wheat Bun 10's
350g P35.50/pk

Danes
Pasteurized Processed Cheese,
Slices 250g P51.50/pk



Planters
Peanut Butter, Creamy, Crunchy
340g P85.50/bot
510g P108.50/bot



Sampaloc
P47.25/kg
Siling Labuyo
P63.00/kg

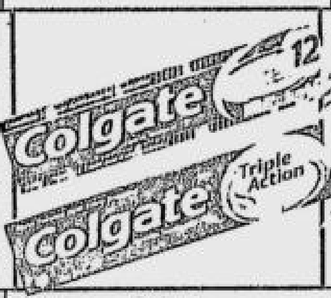
Red Horse
Beer in Can P22.10/can
San Miguel
Pale Pilsen in Can P22.80/can
San Mig
Light in Can P23.50/can

Close-Up
Toothpaste Red Hot Spicy Flavor
P68.25/tube
Domex
Thick All Around Home Cleaner, Lemon Fresh
P121.75/bot
Sunsilk
Relax & Control Shampoo P71.50/bot

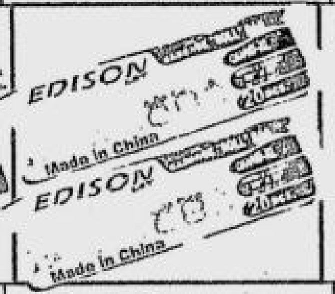
Save
2-ply Quali-Tissue
12rolls P111.50/pk
48rolls P372.50/pk
24rolls P218.45/pk 9rolls P84.50/pk

Cutie
Soft Twin Ply Tissue
200 sheets 10rolls P88.50/pk
2-ply Tissue 4rolls P36.50/pk
Singles P9.25/roll

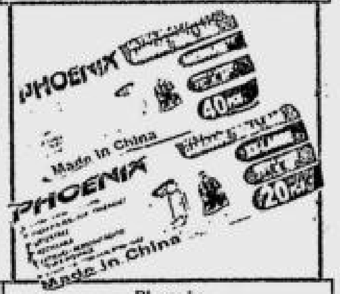
Jade Bathroom Tissue 2-Ply
P370.00/pk
Cheers Folded Table Napkins
P100.50/pk
Sanicare
All-Around Hygienic Tissue 600's 3-ply
P130.95/pk



Colgate
Fluoride Toothpaste, Total Whitening Gel
160g P71.50/tube 90g P41.75/tube
Triple Action 150ml P69.95/tube
Triple Action 100ml P47.95/tube

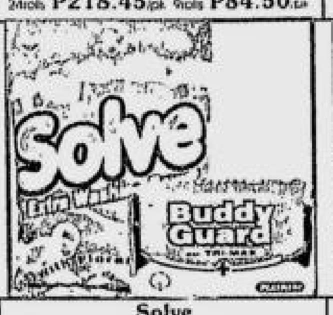


Edison
X-Tie Garbage Roll Bag, Lavender Scented, Gray, Quad XL 50"x50"
20pcs P252.50/roll

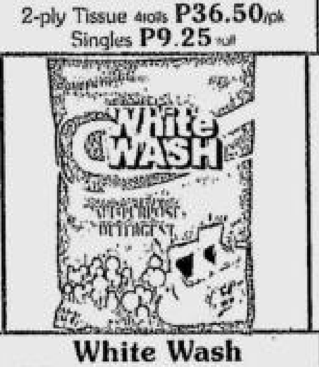


Phoenix
Garbage Roll Bag
Black L 26"x32" P70.95/roll
Yellow M 22"x24" 40pcs P66.50/roll
Transparent Bag XXL 37"x40" 20pcs P131.50/roll
Green Bags XXXL 45"x45" 20pcs P181.50/roll

Band-Aid
Isopropyl Alcohol
70% Solution w/ Moisturizer
500ml P55.75/bot
Modess
Maxi All Night w/ Wings P26.95/pk



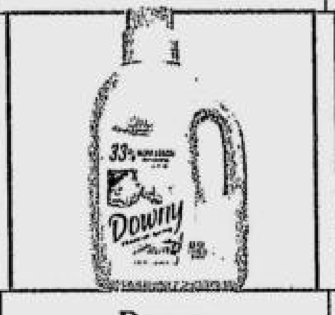
Solve
Powder Detergent w/ Floral Extract
1kg P74.95/pk
Buddy Guard
Maximum Skin Protection Soap
Platinum, Gold P12.95/pc



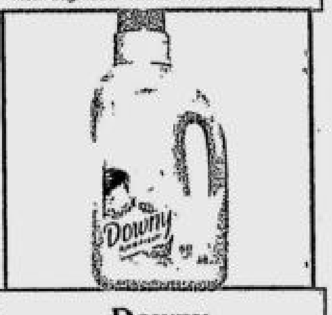
White Wash
All-Purpose Powder Detergent
6kg P211.95/pk
1000g P47.95/pk

Zonrox
Detergent Powder w/ Fabric Conditioner, Freshness
2300g P228.25/pk 900g P92.00/pk
450g P46.20/pk 67g P6.10/pk

Vernel
Fabric Softener Jumbo Pack
Jasmin, Tender Touch, Floral Fresh
1lt P96.50/pouch



Downy
Mountain Spring Fabric Softener
2.4lt P493.50/bot



Downy
April Fresh Fabric Softener
1.8lt P372.50/bot

Makati Supermart Alabang [illegible]
Unimart [illegible] Cash&Carry Supermarket [illegible]

Putting your best food forward

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

WE PLANED IN EARLY TO CATCH the morning schedule of the white water rafting. Feeling groggy from lack of sleep, we were awakened by the not-too-smooth landing.

It must have been the brakes. The airport of Cagayan de Oro is perched on a mountain and needs that jolt to make the medium-sized plane stop before it reaches the edge.

The main reason for being in Cagayan de Oro was to serve as judge in the culinary competition called Kumbira (feasting). White water rafting was the added attraction, one way to introduce guests to what the place had to offer.

And so we swirled through the mild ripples, screamed through the swifter rapids and tried to avoid the whirling eddies. We let the current take us wherever it pleased when we swam under the watchful eyes of the guides. They really did most of the work of paddling and then preparing our lunch by the river.

While our lunch consisted of really fresh, already cooked crabs and shrimps and tasty *lechon manok*, all eaten with *pusô* (rice cooked in woven coconut leaves), I did miss my first white water rafting when the fish was grilled on site served with vinegar dips spiked with chili.

How great to be introduced to a place that way, a fun way to show how the river that gave the city its name is still clean and flowing, how the people do their work with joy, how the food is fresh and delicious.

JUDGES of the Kumbira cut the 10th anniversary cakes at the opening of the event.

Right direction

But it takes an outsider to tell our Cagayan de Oro hosts, the association of hotels and restaurants or Cohara, that this is one step in the right direction toward culinary tourism, a major thrust of the tourism department to attract visitors to the country.

In between judging duties, we discussed what food could be included that would speak of Northern Mindanao. A white fish that could substitute for *lapu-lapu* was mentioned. Called *layà*, they said the fish could only be found in Panguil Bay of Ozamiz City.

THE WINNING "putós" entry, food wrapped in corn husk

What about the excellent pork and beef and the pineapples of Bukidnon? And the ostrich meat from a farm just outside the city? And the salad vegetables that have been growing in the cool climes even before farm lots were fashionable in Tagaytay and Lipa?

Start with your menus, we told our hosts. Identify the ingredient and indicate where it comes from. That's the way the French do it so the diner thinks the restaurant knows where to source the best produce. A description should be helpful, especially for visitors not familiar with local names.

During the 10 years of the Kumbira, ingredients indigenous to the place have found their way in particular competitions. There have been *casuy* and pineapple concoctions. The market basket competition that involves cooking on site has included ostrich.

Those 10 years of competitions have also taught the judges about the food of the place. This was where I first learned of *sinuglaw*, a contraction of *sinugba* and *kinilaw*, grilled pork and pickled fish combined.

From that, two more ingredients used in their *kinilaw* were introduced—*suwà*, the aromatic local lime, and *tabon-tabon* that gave that milky quality.

Tubâ and chocolate

This year, we learned about *kinutil*, the local brew of *tubâ* mixed with chocolate. Imagine that!

This year, too, there was an interesting contest called *putós*, the local word for wrapped food. Contestants were asked to show how leaves could be used to cook and present food. There were the usual *pusô*. Another used banana leaves in neat ways to wrap rice and viand.

The most creative was the entry where squid was covered in local black rice then wrapped in corn husk, cut diagonally in two to reveal the insides. The judges looked at each other, impressed by the idea.

In case all those aren't enough, my hosts can refer to the essay "Cagayan de Oro in my Palate" by Paulo Clavecilla and Leny de Borja ("Slow Food: Philippine Culinary Traditions," 2005). The authors wrote of grilled *chorizo bola-bola* eaten with *sukang* Cagayan de Oro, a "happy marriage of apple cider vinegar and rip fuel (a power-shape drink)."

And there's *guinamos nga hipon*, fermented tiny freshwater fish found in the mouth of the Cagayan River and Macajalar Bay.

The *guinamos nga hipon* was served with boiled green *saba* bananas at the launch of the "Slow Food" book last year. It was such a delight that the two combined so well that it proved to be the culinary discovery of that event. We really should have labeled that offering as a Cagayan de Oro gem.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

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TWO FLAVORS IN ONE

Gardenia's Double Delights Loaves combine *ube* and cheese, and chocolate and mocha. The Gardenia Ubelicious and Cheesy Twirl may be enjoyed as breakfast bread or snack. The chocolate ripple and mocha marble loaf combines the decadent taste of chocolate and the goodness of rich mocha. With Gardenia Double Delights *ube* and cheese and chocolate and mocha loaf, you can have fresh and delicious bread that may also be a hearty snack.

Easy bean recipes

EASY COOK PEAS AND BEANS ARE RICH IN FIBER AND PROTEIN, essential components of a healthy diet. They are available in three variants: Great Northern Beans, Red Kidney Beans and Pinto Beans. Here are some easy-to-do recipes using Easy Cook Peas and Beans.

Beany Burgers

1 c boiled and minced Easy Cook Great Northern Beans
500 g ground beef
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
½ c minced onions
½ Australia Harvest Rolled Oats
2 tbsp ketchup
¼ c butter
1 egg
2 c flour for dredging
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a glass bowl and gently blend till firm. Chill the mixture a bit in the refrigerator. Form into patties and dredge in flour. Lay flat on greased baking sheet and bake at 350° Fahrenheit till done. You can also fry them like you would burgers.

Beany Lumpia

2 c Easy Cook Red Kidney Beans
¼ k ground pork
1 tbsp soy sauce
½ chicken cube
½ c green onion leaves, chopped
¼ c flour
Lumpia wrappers

Boil beans until tender then drain well. Combine all other ingredients in a glass bowl and blend. Chill for about 20 minutes. Fill *lumpia* wrappers with the mixture. Heat oil and deep-fry until golden brown.

Beany tips

- Dried beans can be used interchangeably. You may use another bean of similar size if you cannot find the type called for in a recipe.
- To prevent water from foaming when cooking dried beans, add 1 tbsp of vegetable oil to the water.
- Dried beans triple in volume as they cook, so be sure to choose sufficient casserole or pan.

For more information and recipes, write to The Marketing Department Ideal Macaroni & Spaghetti Fty. Inc., 33 Luna 2nd St., Barangay San Agustin, Malabon City. E-mail info@idealmacaroni.com.

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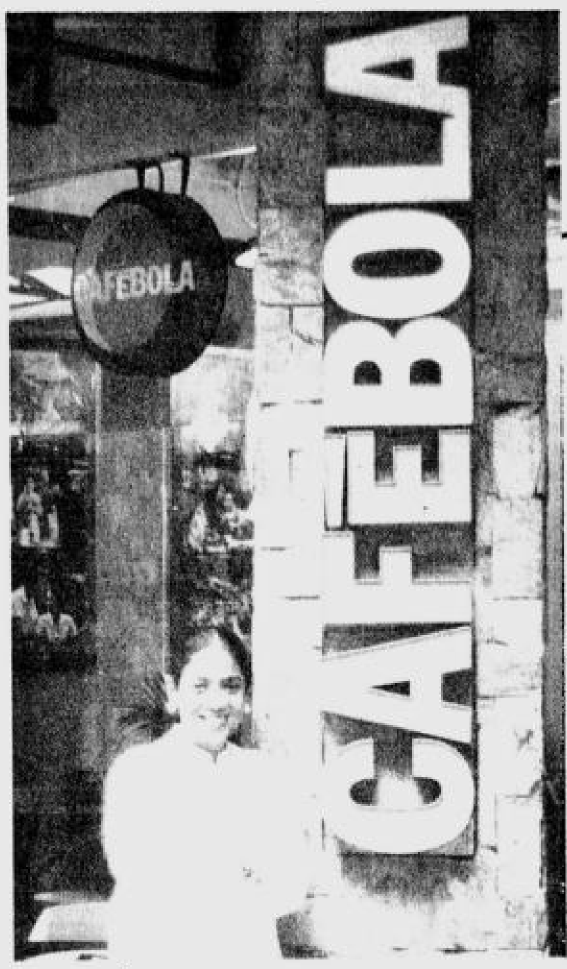
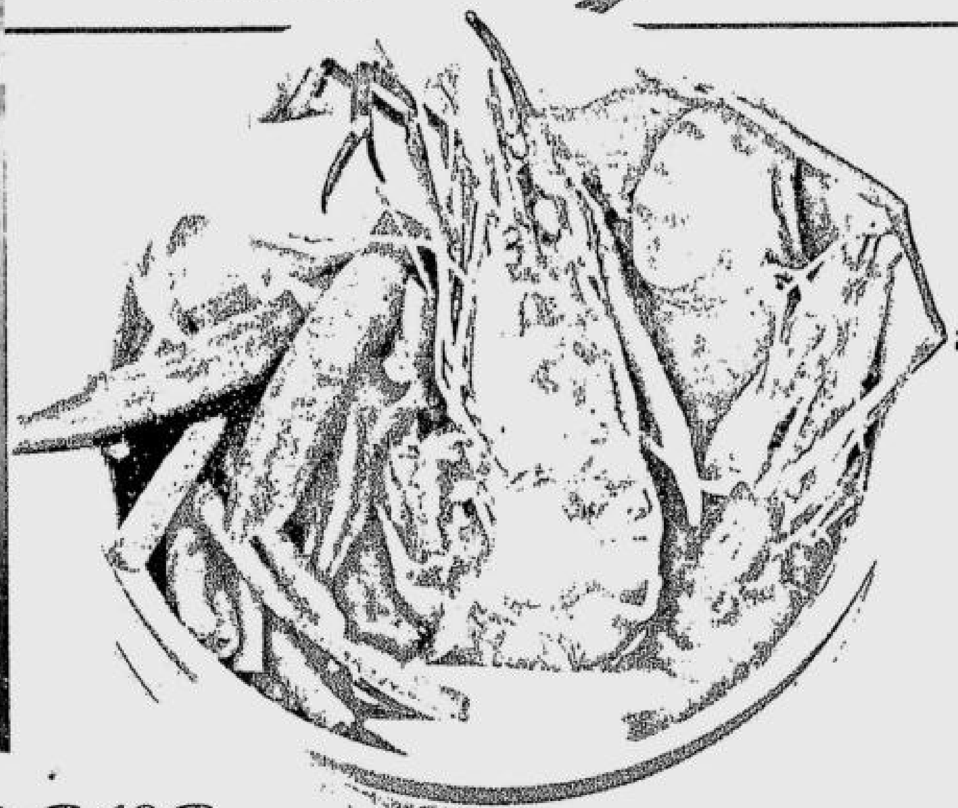
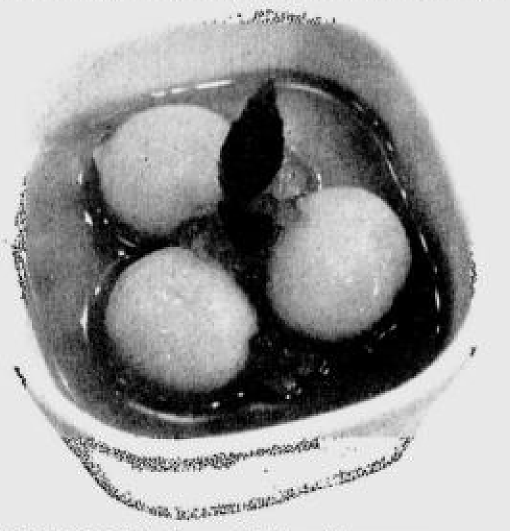




Margarita Fores marks her cafe's third anniversary, with more Pinoy comfort food



CARABAO Milk Panna Cotta with mango, tapioca and panocha glaze

Three years and still having a ball

ABOVE left: Margarita Fores believes in "cool comfort food." Above: Sinigang of Bulacan River Prawn (Ulang).

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

AFTER THREE YEARS IN THE highly competitive Greenbelt 3, Café Bola remains at the top of its game.

Its creative kitchen continues to cook up new, delicate and mouth-watering dishes for diners eager to sample its "cool comfort food."

Adobo flakes with *kesong puti* on rice, naked Ilonggo-style *chorizo* with egg on rice, caramelized spam with egg on rice, and spicy *bangus* mousse with *pan de sal* rounds are top-sellers. But owners Margarita Fores and Alvin Lim, her long-time beau, add to the menu about every two months, believing clients should be treated to fresh, innovative, intriguing dishes all the time.

So when Café Bola in Greenbelt (tel. 7572652) celebrated recently its third year, the event was marked with the launching of new comfort food for adventurous Pinoy diners.

"[Though] food in Café Bola will always remind us of the dishes we grew up with," says Fores, who also runs Cibo and Pepato and is Malacañang's favorite caterer, "we sometimes put some twist to them to make the food more exciting."

The Fiesta Rice is garlic-soy fried rice topped with *tinapang bangus*, slices of salted egg, tomatoes, green onions and *chicharon*. It's quite similar to *binagoongang* rice minus the mangoes, onions and *bagoong*. "I learned it from Tita Glenda Cojuangco back in the

THREE/ E4

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That 'pearly' smile

REUTERS

A breakthrough in fresh breath protection

THE NEW ASTRING-O-SOL ICE Extreme is a revolutionary mouthwash as it combats morning breath with its clinically-proven time release anti-bacterial compound (chlorhexidine) that effectively works throughout the night. The ultimate proof - gargle before bedtime and wake up with fresh, clean breath. It's like having no morning breath. Available in 60ml, 120ml, 250ml and 360ml bottles, Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme comes in a cool lemon lime flavor that gives a total blast of freshness. Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme is a quality product of GlaxoSmithKline Philippines.

Get Extreme Protection
Fight Morning Breath
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A perfect smile with the new and modern dental center

By Marlet S. Salazar

ACHIEVING A PERFECT SMILE IS NO longer impossible these days. Even more, going to the dentist is now something to look forward to with the New Gan Advanced Osseointegration Center (GAOC).

Dentist to the stars Dr. Mark Gan, who is renowned for his pioneering efforts in improving the dental profession, recently opened GAOC located at the 12th floor of the Medical Plaza Building, Amorsolo Street, Makati.

GAOC redefines the meaning of a dental clinic with state-of-the-art equipment and a very relaxing ambience.

The center offers an extremely advanced technology in oral diagnostic and surgical procedures, dental implantology and jaw reconstruction. From conventional checkups to the most complicated oral rehabilitation procedures, GAOC is fully equipped to handle any dental contingency at an affordable price.

GAOC has an extensive line of services not normally offered in other dental clinics. The most popular nowadays is the dental implants.

A dental implant is basically placing an artificial tooth-like structure made up of titanium inside the jawbone. There is a certain waiting period for the bone and implant to fuse together. This process is called "Osseo integration."

Dental implant at GAOC is assured to be safe because Gan is very particular about sanitation.

"We are very strict when we do the procedure," Gan said, "The equipment must always be sterilized with our high-technology equipment. We don't want any bacteria present that may lead into infection."

This infection can lead to dental implant failure. However, Gan has an impressive track record for the hundreds of implants he has done in the past. His success rate is 98 percent. "The 2 percent failure is because patients are smokers," he added.

GAOC also provides highly specific and specialized oral surgical procedures and treatment of diseases affecting the mouth, teeth, face, and neck with Maxillo-Facial Surgery. The center also offers basic dental services like pediatric dentistry, bone grafting, and other special surgical procedures.

Gan pioneered the teeth whitening when he set up Perfect Smile. This process has been widely successful in the Philippines.

Gan took up his training in Implant Surgery at the West Coast Surgery Center for Osseointegration in Los Angeles, California. He completed his residency in Prosthodontic Implant and Advanced Prosthodontic at the University of California Los Angeles. He had his one year Oral Surgery Externship Program at the University of the Philippines, Philippine General Hospital in Manila, and finished his Doctorate of Dental Medicine at the University of the East Manila.

Mercury Drug-Citibank cardholders get free dental coverage

MERCURY DRUG-CITIBANK cardholders now have more reasons to smile with the addition of free dental coverage to the credit card's already extensive healthcare package.

"True to our promise to offer both a credit card and health card with the Mercury Drug Citibank Visa, we continuously look for ways to make our product more relevant to users. The free dental coverage will be a welcome complement to our standard features that include free annual check-up and free eye examination," said Michellina Triwardhany, Citibank Cards business director.

The free dental package will be provided by One-Worldwide Health Corp and will cover dental consultation, oral prophylaxis, unlimited simple tooth extraction and temporary filling, recementation of jacket crowns, inlays and onlays, gum treatment and treatment of oral lesions, wounds and burns.

The free dental services will be available in over 200 affiliated dental clinics nationwide. To avail of this benefit, Mercury Drug-Citibank cardholders will need to call 886-1649 and request for a membership card, which will be honored in participating dental clinics and health establishments including Healthway.

Touted as the financial passport to health and wellness, the Mercury Drug Citibank Visa offers cardholders a 2-percent rebate on all Mercury Drug purchases. For other charges, a 0.5-percent rebate will be credited. On top of these rebates, cardholders also enjoy a range of health and wellness benefits such as free emergency quick response service membership and discounts in hospitals and health services. Aside from Medical City and Cebu Doctors' Hospital, the other hospitals that provide discount to Mercury Drug Citibank cardholders are Mactan Community Hospital, North General Hospital in Cebu and South General Hospital also in Cebu.

Cardholders also have the option to avail of a Hospital Income with Critical Illness Insurance Plan at attractive rates, with premiums conveniently charged to their credit card. The plan features hospital income benefit, daily cash allowance during confinement, and lump sum cash benefit for first-time sufferers of the following critical illnesses: cancer, stroke, myocardial infarction, kidney failure, and major organ transplantation.

Plus, as with all the other standard features of a Citibank Credit Card, the Mercury Drug-Citibank card allows longer and lighter payments with the Citibank PayLite Installment Plan. Cardholders can also pay their utility bills conveniently with Citibank One Bill as well as experience preferential treatment courtesy of Citibank World Privileges.

For more information on Mercury Drug-Citibank Card, log on to www.citibank.com.ph, or call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999. Application forms are also available and are accepted at Mercury Drug branches.

Affordable and effective gum care for all

HOW SURE ARE YOU THAT YOUR GUMS ARE healthy? Unfortunately, most Filipinos aren't in the loop when it comes to proper and effective gum care, which often results in a multitude of oral disorders like tooth decay, gingivitis, and halitosis, just to name a few.

To arrest this predicament, Lamoiyan Corp has recently introduced Hapee Gumtect, an innovative oral care solution that takes the cleansing and bacteria-restraining capabilities of existing oral solutions to much greater effect.

Lamoiyan Corp managing consultant Ding Salvador says Hapee Gumtect is the result of Lamoiyan's tireless desire to bring only the best products for Filipinos to enjoy and benefit from. Lamoiyan believes that Filipinos must not be deprived of what's best in oral care just because a particular product is expensive, which is why the company constantly maintains that quality must not come at a price.

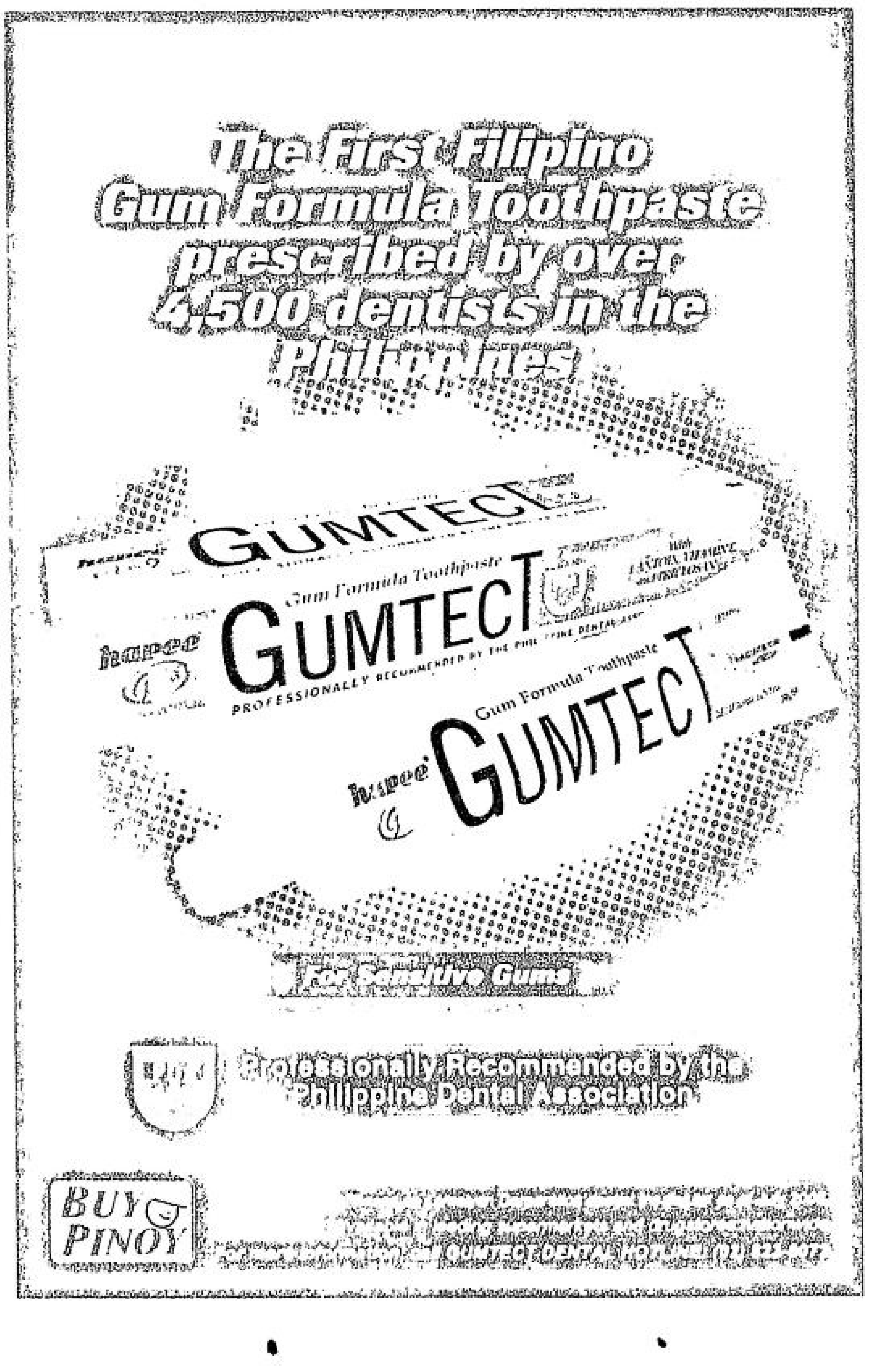
Hapee Gumtect's efficacy lies in its three powerful ingredients: allantoin, vitamin E and triclosan, all of which prevent and slow down the progress of gingivitis. Allantoin has a healing capability that prevents heat blisters in the mouth and mucous membrane, while helping in the formulation of healthy tissues.

Vitamin E makes gums stronger by augmenting blood circulation in the gums. Finally, triclosan is a broad-spectrum antibacterial agent that prevents the swelling caused by gingivitis. It's also effective in hindering the accumulation of trapped food bits that become a breeding ground for bacteria and trigger the flow of acid into the gums.

Hapee Gumtect is the only product of its kind in the market that was formulated by a Filipino company that genuinely cares for the dental needs of Filipinos. It costs far less than international brands and is the first Filipino gum formula toothpaste to be accepted and professionally recommended by the Philippine Dental Association.

Lamoiyan Corp made a conscious effort to ensure that Hapee Gumtect's cost makes it accessible to everyone. It even costs less than the average fast food fare and is very easy to administer because brushing one's teeth is already a daily habit to most people.

Gumtect is more than just a medical solution---it's the company's way of providing valuable service to Filipinos, who deserve only the best in oral care.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The unsightly truth about tooth decay

From page E3

posed from gingival recession or periodontal disease, caries can develop more readily. Even in a healthy oral environment, the tooth is susceptible to dental caries.

The anatomy of teeth may affect the likelihood of caries formation. In cases where the deep grooves of teeth are more numerous and exaggerated, pit and fissure caries are more likely to develop. Also, caries are more likely to develop when food is trapped between teeth.

Bacteria

The mouth contains a wide variety of bacteria, but only a few specific species of bacteria are believed to cause dental caries: Streptococcus mutans and Lactobacilli among them. Particular for root caries, the most closely associated bacteria frequently identified are Lactobacillus acidophilus, Actinomyces viscosus, Nocardia spp., and Streptococcus mutans. Bacteria collect around the teeth and gums in a sticky, creamy colored mass called plaque. Some sites collect plaque more commonly than others. The grooves on the biting surfaces of molar and premolar teeth provide microscopic retention, as does the point of contact between teeth. Plaque may also collect along the gingiva. In addition, the edges of fillings or crowns can provide protection for bacteria, as can intraoral appliances such as orthodontic braces or removable partial dentures.

Fermentable carbohydrates

Bacteria in a person's mouth converts sugars (most commonly sucrose - or common sugar, glucose and fructose) into acids such as lactic acid through fermentation processes. If left in contact with the tooth, these acids cause demineralization, which is the dissolution of its mineral content. The process is dynamic, however, as remineralization can also occur if the acid is buffered (or "neutralized") and suitable minerals are available in the mouth from saliva but also from preventative aids such as fluoride toothpaste, varnish or mouthwash. Caries may be arrested at this stage. If sufficient acid is produced over a period of time to the favor of demineralization, caries will progress and may then result in so much mineral content being lost that the soft organic material left behind will disintegrate, forming a cavity or hole.

Time

The frequency of which teeth are exposed to cariogenic (acidic) environments affects the likelihood of caries development. After meals or snacks containing sugars, the bacteria in the mouth metabolize them resulting in acids as by-products which decreases pH. As time progresses, the pH returns to normal due to the buffering capacity of saliva and the dissolved mineral content from tooth surfaces. During every exposure to the acidic environment, portions of the inorganic mineral content at the surface of teeth dissolves and can remain dissolved for two hours. Since teeth are vulnerable during these periods of acidic environments, the development of dental caries relies greatly on the frequency of these occurrences. For example, when sugars are eaten continuously throughout the day, the tooth is more vulnerable to caries for a longer period of time, and caries are more likely to develop than if teeth are exposed less frequently to these environments and proper oral hygiene is maintained. This is because the pH never returns to normal levels, thus the tooth surfaces cannot remineralize, or regain lost mineral content.

The carious process can begin within days of a tooth erupting into the mouth if the diet is sufficiently rich in suitable carbohydrates, but may begin at any other time thereafter. The speed of the process is dependent on the interplay of the various factors described above but is believed to be slower since the introduction of fluoride. *From wikipedia.com*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The unsightly truth about tooth decay

DENTAL CARIES, ALSO KNOWN AS tooth decay or dental cavities, are holes that damage the structure of teeth. The occurrence of dental caries is globally widespread, and the disease can lead to pain, tooth loss, infection, and, in severe cases, death. An estimated 90 percent of schoolchildren worldwide and most adults have experienced dental caries, with the disease being more severe in Asian and Latin American countries and least in African countries. In the United States, dental caries is the most common chronic childhood disease; at least five times more common than asthma. It is the most important cause of tooth loss in children.

The number of cases has decreased in some developed countries, and the decrease is usually attributed to increasingly better oral hygiene practices and preventive measures such as fluoride exposure. Nonetheless, places which have seen an overall decrease of dental caries continue to have a disparity in the distribution of the disease. In children aged 5 to 17, 80 percent of dental caries resides in 25 percent of the population.

Types of dental caries

Caries are classified based on location. Generally, there are two different types of caries: caries found on smooth surfaces and caries found in pit and fissures. The location, initiation, and progression of smooth-surface caries differs from pit and fissure caries.

Signs and symptoms

Until caries progresses, a person may not be aware of it. The earliest sign of a carious lesion is the appearance of a chalky white spot on the surface of the tooth, indicating an area of demineralization of enamel. As the lesion continues to demineralize, it can turn brown but will eventually turn into a cavitation, a "cavity". The process before this point is reversible, but once a cavity forms, the lost tooth structure cannot be regenerated. A lesion which appears brown and shiny suggests dental caries was once present but the demineralization process has stopped, leaving a stain. A brown spot which is dull in appearance is probably a sign of active caries.

As the enamel and dentin are destroyed further, the cavitation becomes more noticeable. The affected areas of the tooth change color and become soft to the touch. Once the decay passes through enamel, the dentinal tubules, which have passages to the nerve of the tooth, become exposed and cause the tooth to hurt. The pain can be worsened by heat, cold, or sweet foods and drinks. Dental caries can also cause bad breath and foul tastes. In highly progressed cases, infection can spread from the tooth to the surrounding soft tissues which may become life-threatening.

Causes

There are four players in the formation of caries: a tooth surface (enamel or dentin); cariogenic (or potentially caries-causing) bacteria; fermentable carbohydrates (such as sucrose); and time. The caries process does not have an inevitable outcome, and different individuals will be susceptible to different degrees depending on the shape of their teeth, oral hygiene habits, and the buffering capacity of their saliva.

Dental caries can occur on any surface of a tooth that is exposed to the oral cavity, but not the structures which are retained within the bone.

Teeth

Having "soft teeth" is usually not the cause of caries, despite commonly held belief to the contrary. There are certain diseases and disorders, however, that affect teeth that can leave an individual at greater risk for caries. Amelogenesis imperfecta, which occurs between 1 in 718 and 1 in 14,000 individuals, is a disease in which the enamel does not form fully or in insufficient amounts and can fall off a tooth. Dentinogenesis imperfecta is a similar disease. In both cases, teeth may be left more vulnerable to decay because the enamel is not as able to protect the tooth as it would in health.

In most persons, disorders or diseases affecting teeth are not the primary cause of dental caries. Ninety-six percent of tooth enamel is composed of minerals. These minerals, especially hydroxyapatite, will become soluble when exposed to acidic environments. Enamel begins to demineralize at a pH of 5.5. Dentin and cementum are more susceptible to caries than enamel because they have lower mineral content. Thus, when root surfaces of teeth are ex-

TOOTH DECAY/ E2

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Calcium, the essential mineral for strong teeth

CALCIUM IS THE MOST PLENTIFUL MINERAL found in the human body, accounting for 1.5 to 2 percent of an adult's total body weight. The teeth and bones contain the majority of the body's calcium (about 99 percent). Calcium in these tissues is concentrated in the form of calcium phosphate salts. Nerve cells, body tissues, blood, and other body fluids contain the remaining calcium.

Calcium is essential for the formation of and maintenance of healthy teeth and bones.

The bones incorporate calcium into their structure. Like other tissues in the body, bones are continuously being reabsorbed and re-formed. Teeth incorporate calcium in their structure in a manner similar to bones.

Many foods contain calcium, but dairy products are the most significant source. Milk and dairy products such as yogurt, cheeses, and buttermilk contain an efficiently absorbed form of calcium.

For children aged 1 to 2 years, whole milk (4 percent fat) is recommended. The fat content of dairy products is a concern for adults and children over the age of 2. You can easily reduce the fat content while maintaining the calcium content by selecting low-fat (2 percent or 1 percent) or skim milk and other diary products.

The calcium is not contained in the "fat portion" of milk, so removing the fat will not affect the calcium content. In fact, when you replace the fat portion that has been removed with an equal part of skimmed milk, you are actually increasing the calcium content. Therefore, one cup of skim or non-fat milk will have more calcium than one cup of whole milk because almost the entire cup of skim milk is the made up of the calcium-containing portion.

Other dairy products such as yogurt, most cheeses, and buttermilk are excellent sources of calcium and are available in low-fat or fat-free versions.

Milk is also a good source of phosphorus and magnesium, which help the body absorb and use the calcium more effectively. Vitamin D is essential for efficient utilization of calcium. Milk is fortified with vitamin D for this reason.

Green leafy vegetables such as broccoli, collards, kale, mustard greens, turnip greens, and bok choy or Chinese cabbage are good sources of calcium.

Other sources of calcium are salmon and sardines canned with their soft bones. Shellfish, almonds, Brazil nuts, and dried beans are also sources of calcium. It is difficult, however, to eat adequate quantities of these foods to achieve optimal calcium intake.

Several food products, such as breads and orange juice, are enriched with calcium to make them a significant source of calcium for people whose dairy product consumption is inadequate.

Low intakes of calcium for prolonged periods of time can lead to calcium deficiency. This condition leads to osteoporosis, loss of the jaw bone (and secondary oral health problems), hypertension, and other disorders. *From MedLine Plus (www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/calcium).*

The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine has issued new daily calcium and vitamin D intake guidelines for various groups of persons:
*Adequate Intake (AI)**

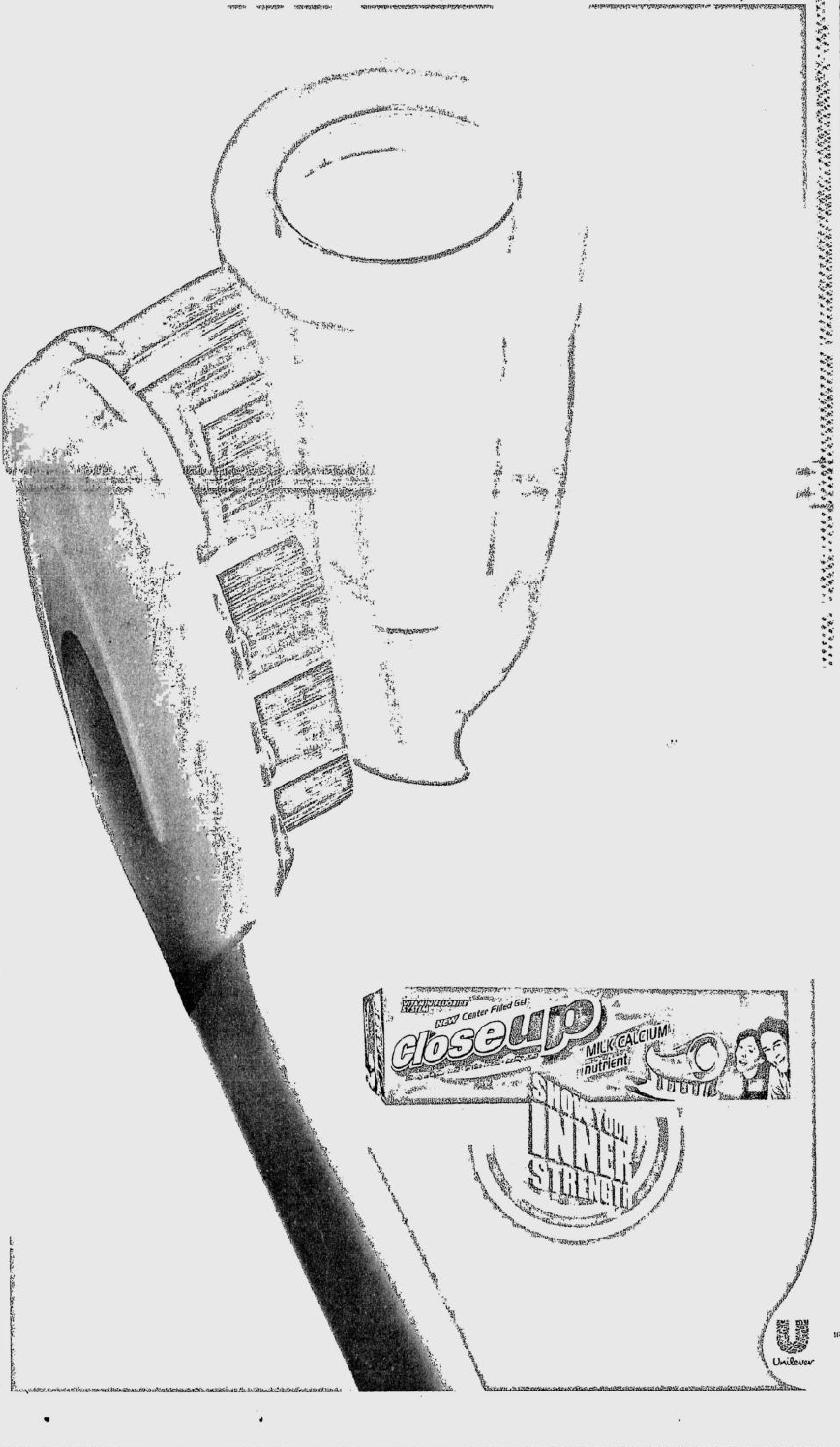
Calcium

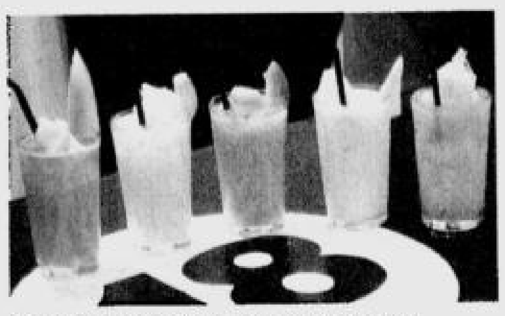
Males and females 9 - 18 years	1,300 mg
Women and men 19 - 50 years	1,000 mg
Pregnant or nursing women up to age 1	1,300 mg
Pregnant or nursing women 19 - 50 years	1,000 mg
Men and women over 50	1,200 mg

Vitamin D

People 9 - 50 years with limited sun exposure	1,300 mg
People 51 - 70 years with limited sun exposure	1,000 mg
People over 70 with limited sun exposure	1,300 mg

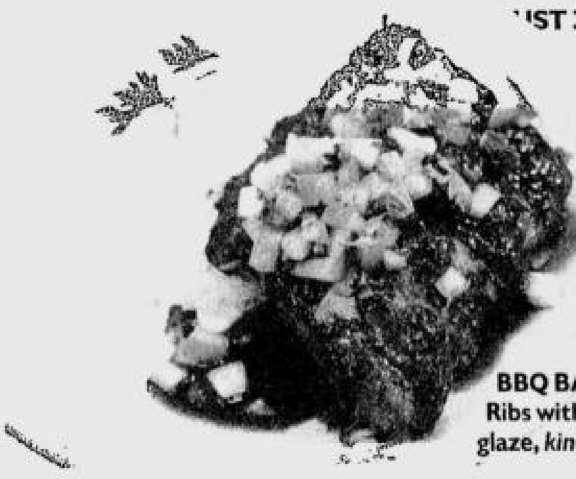
http://orthoinfo.aaos.org





COMFORT Fruit Shakes: watermelon, jackfruit, chico, *kamias* and pomelo

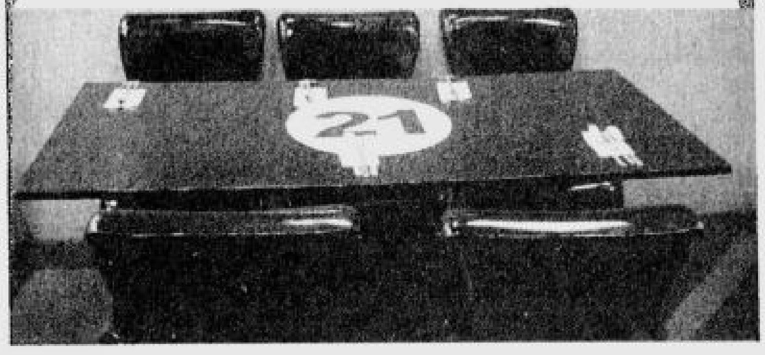
LECHON Sinigang with Ripe Watermelon



BBQ BABY Back Ribs with Tanduay glaze, *kinchay* salsa and rice

KAMIAS and Tamarind Sinigang of Rock Lobster, served with white rice

BLACK-AND-WHITE movie stills of Alvin Lim's mom, former LVN star Emma Alegre, highlight Café Bola's brightly colored interiors.



Three years and still having a ball

From page E1

'80s," says Fores.

Sinigang, a quintessential Pinoy dish, has been reinvented into Sinigang na Lechon with chunks of roasted pig meat and vegetables with large pieces of ripe watermelon. "My aunt from Rizal Province would put *hilaw na pakwan* in her *sinigang* and cook it until it becomes mushy. I made mine with *hinog na pakwan* to remove the [*umay*] from the *lechon*," Fores says.

Rainy day treats

Fores has whipped up hot soups for the wet season, in servings big enough to be shared. "We notice that our market is always craving for soups [that can be] shared. So we've come up with a variety of soups in big servings," she says.

Choices are Kamias and Tamarind Sinigang of Rock Lobster, Papaya Tinola of Rock Lobster and Bulacan River Prawn (*Ulang*) Kamias Sinigang.

If you want something dry or just with a bit of sauce, BBQ Baby Back Ribs with Tanduay glaze, *kinchay* salsa and rice is filling. Also satisfying is Crispy Donut Ring Lapu-Lapu with Orange Escabeche.

Since many people now eat healthy and Fores is into South Beach Diet meals, Café Bola has healthful dishes, from red rice to South Beach Adobo (braised only in soy and vinegar and no oil) and Grilled Bangus with Kangkong Salad.

The Café Bola menu has touches of Italian since Fores and Lim decided at the start to make the restaurant like a Filipino version of Cibo. "Filipinos cannot eat Italian all the time. We always go back and look for Pinoy food," Fores says.

Italian-inspired fare include Kesong Puti in Carrozza, fried carabao cheese with tomato sauce and basil; Fried Mozzarella Bolas Salad, Tagaytay greens with mango and Ilokos vinaigrette; and Bola Caprese, baby mozzarella meatballs with tomato and basil.

Botsky's Tuna Laing with Coconut Cream is also fast becoming a favorite. It is served either with rice or pasta, though the latter seems preferred. "It's the original recipe of the mom of my chef, Botsky, so I named it after him," says Fores.

"I remember when I started working in the '80s, I read in a magazine about this Italian chef who'd make pasta with coconut milk. That stuck in my mind. When I started to do a lot of work in Malacañang, preparing mostly Filipino dishes, I tried it," she says.

When Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra visited Malacañang, Fores served Botsky's spicy hot and creamy *laing*. "Thaksin liked it so much that, after a week, we put it on the Bola menu."

Fores says they do a home-style version in Bola of many ideas they put in menus for Malacañang. "Like the *camote* chips, which are garnishes we did for Malacañang, it clicked so much that I added it to the Bola menu."

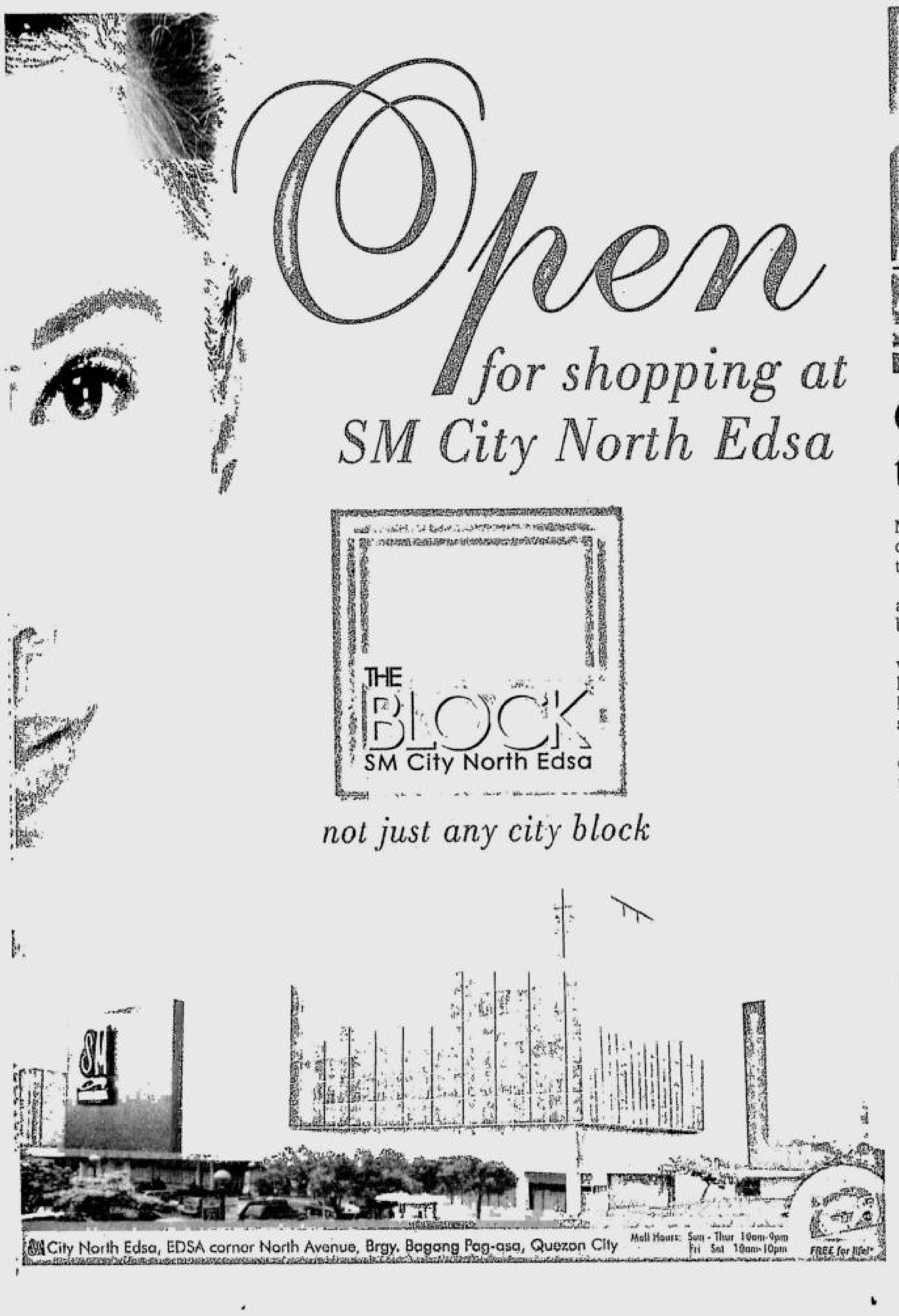
Sweet endings

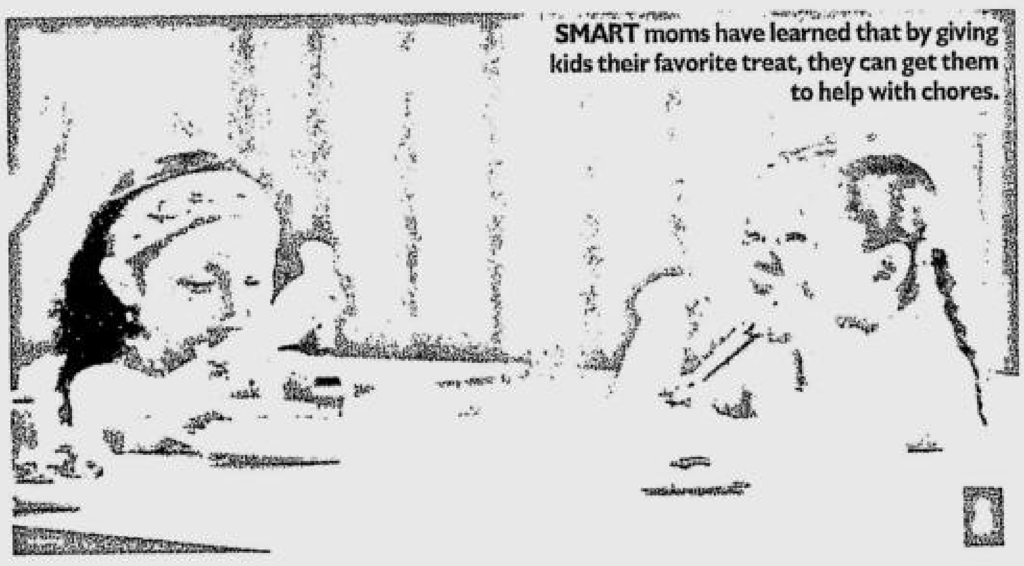
Desserts at Café Bola should not be missed. Aside from homemade quality desserts, such as *saba-nana* pie (from *saging na saba*), classic tiramisu, Bola flan and a variation of the traditional cheesecake using *kesong puti*, there are Carabao Milk Panna Cotta with mango, tapioca and panocha glaze, and Halo-Halo Smoothie.

Fores says Lim, who's mostly in charge of Bola's desserts, is now working on a new dessert called sticky buns. "When he comes back from the US, he will introduce sticky buns, a cross between brioche and *ensaymada*. It's really good, crusty but soft inside."

And if there's such a thing as a comfort drink, these Bola concoctions will no doubt qualify—*kamias*, watermelon, *chico*, *pomelo* and jackfruit. The *kamias* shake is cool, pale green, sweet and tart. Fores says the artist Bencab invented and designed it. *Kamias* is in season year round, and she gets her supply from trees in friends' and relatives' backyards.

Fores has plans of opening a few more Café Bola branches in the metropolis and, eventually, franchising out.





SMART moms have learned that by giving kids their favorite treat, they can get them to help with chores.

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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Who's afraid of Andrew Wolff?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

CESAR MONTANO AND Andrew Wolff almost gave **Manny Pacquiao** a run for his money when they came close to having a fistfight at the venue of the Celebrity Boxing Match on Sunday. I know Boboy (Cesar) from way back. He is living proof that the age of chivalry isn't dead yet. Boboy's not one who would start a brawl. Like any real man, he only fights back when he is provoked.

His wife Sunshine comes to his defense. "*Hindi dapat* boxing *ang sinalihan ni* Andrew. *Dapat* wrestling! He should have been disqualified because he violated the rules twice. It's okay with us that Rommel (Montano) lost but Andrew should've fought fairly. *Ang yabang pa niya maghamon. Kitang kita naman sa* footage *na* he was the one who started the commotion. Then *biglang tumakbo siya na parang bata no'ng lalaban na si* Boboy. And the nerve na *magpa*-blotter *pa siya*!"

Oh, well ... isn't that what Andrew also did when he had a fight with his ex-girlfriend **Gwen Garci**?

As she told me, "*Ang laki-laki niya* and he'll make it appear that *siya ang naapi at nag*-report *pa siya sa pulis*?"

Andrew has this penchant for playing the underdog when he's really the big, bad Wolff.

'Lovespell'

It's going to be a sweet, sweet September as ABS-CBN combines two popular love teams (**Kim Chui-Gerald Anderson** and **Shaina Magdayao-Rayver Cruz**) in "Lovespell" presents "Charm & Crystal" (all Sundays of September after "Your Song"). Set against the backdrop of a high school musical, Kim and Shaina play best friends Crystal and Charm. Gerald is Nookie, the lead guy in the play and Rayver portrays Johnny the Genie.

Being around these four teens make you feel giddy. Both tandems are in that "almost but not quite 'love' yet" stage.

Kim blushes, "*Ya, nagpaparamdam si* Gerald." He says: "Slowly but surely, we're getting there." But when they were still inside the "PBB" house, Kim's crush was Mikee and Gerald had his eyes set on Nina.

Shaina sighs, "I'm not yet allowed to accept suitors at home," Rayver shots back, "I can wait."

FYI (For Your Indulgence)

- Still on Kim, she told me that there's no gap between her and **Sandara Park**. There were rumors that the Korean star felt insecure when Kim suddenly came into the picture since they have the same Asian features. "We were seated beside each other on our flight to Davao for "ASAP" recently. We got to clear things up." So now, "Miss China" and "Miss Korea" are both "Miss Amity" to each other. No more shades of "Miss Amityville."
- Trivia time... Did you know that Gerald was discovered by his manager **Jun Reyes** when he approached Jun's former ward **Joross Gamboa** to have his picture taken with him during a mall show in GenSan? Joross told Jun about Gerald and the rest is history. Now, Jun no longer manages Joross but Gerald is clueless about what happened. Is it because he is hotter property now than Joross? "I will always look up to *Kuya* Joross. I promise myself to never let fame get into my head. I don't want to pretend to be anything I'm not." Hopefully, he won't eat his words as he gets a taste of more success.

KIM Chui RODEL ROTONI

- **Toni Gonzaga** told me that the most memorable scene for her in "You Are the One" is the one where she and **Sam Milby** caught a pig in the mud and they got drenched in the rain. Getting dirty and getting wet together ... Oooh la la! What could be more fun than that?
- **Dominic Ochoa** is so in love with **Deniece Go,** his stylist-girlfriend of two years. But he denies rumors that they are already living in. "I visit her every day so maybe when they see me in the condo where she stays, they jump to conclusions. I still go home to my parents' house." Dom is already husband material so it should be immaterial if he and Deniece play house.

'Your Song' Vol. 3

"Your Song" keeps on playing love tunes as it reaches its third volume this September (every Sunday after "ASAP '06"). **Joaqui Mendoza** and **Brenda Fox** of "PBB Teen Edition" will give life to Mano Mano's "Bigay na Bigay" (Sept. 3), while **Maja Salvador** and **Jason Abalos** will star on Sept. 10 in True Faith's "Sayang ang Lahat." **Angelika de la Cruz** and **Dominic Ochoa** are featured on Sept. 17 in "Malas Mo" by Protein Shake. On Sept. 24, **John Lloyd Cruz** and **Bea Alonzo** will give color to Shamrock's "OK Lang."

Singing champs

The Cercado Sisters (**Mylene, Celina, Irene and Almira**) and The Siblings (**Paolo, Beverly and Jem Marquez**), who are all talents of KB (**Kitchie Benedicto**) Entertainment, garnered top honors at the recently concluded World Championship of the Performing Arts in Hollywood.

The Cercados got gold medals in the Broadway, Gospel, Original Works and Pop/R&B categories in the Vocal Group Section (Junior Division). They so impressed the judges, who awarded them the title of Worldstar Champions in the Pop Category (Junior Division). The Siblings gathered three silvers in the Senior Division. Kitchie has great plans for her world-class wards. They could be the next big thing!

Personal: *Merci Beaucoup* to my naughty "guardian angel" **Leo Valdez** for an overdose of smiles and laughter just when I needed it most.

For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

CESAR Montano: Not one to start a brawl?

Reality check: 'Starstruck' expands search

By Nini Valera

"STARSTRUCK," THE GMA 7 TALENT SEARCH that started the current television trend of reality-based star hunts, has expanded the age range of its contestants from 15-17 to 16-21.

"We already have a lot of teens in our talent pool and we now want to tap into an older age group to look for individuals with star potential," said Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for entertainment TV, in a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday.

"Starstruck," which is also the first homegrown reality *artista* quest, has brought the competition to a higher level by including talent agents and managers in the process of discovering fresh faces for television.

"The only limitation imposed on the contestants is that they have to be new faces on television," Galvante qualified. "Talent scouts can bring image models, for example. This would make the talent agents part of the search."

The show's nationwide auditions, which begin on Sunday, are expected to run for eight weeks.

Instead of just a pair of male and female winners, this season's "Starstruck" is looking for four major talents.

"We'll still have the ultimate survivor couple where the top winner among the males would be paired with the top choice among the female con-

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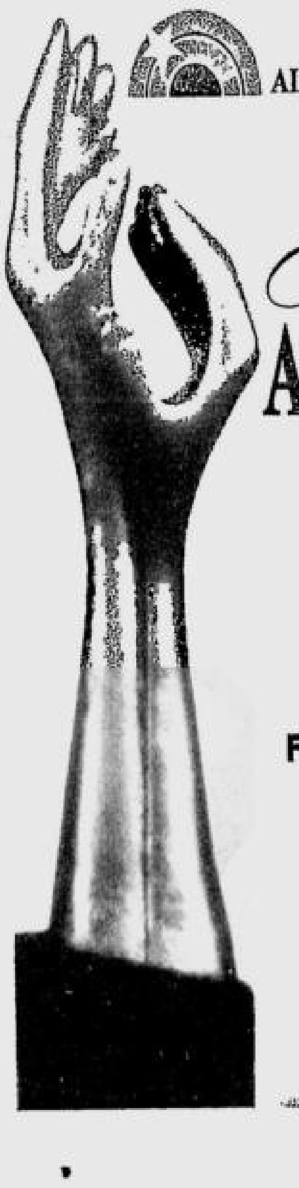

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ROUNDUP

Aliw Awards finalists

THE 19TH ANNUAL Aliw Awards will give out 28 awards in recognition of outstanding live performers on stage and in the concert scene tonight at the Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion.

Three-time Entertainer of the Year Gary Valenciano will be elevated to the Hall of Fame. Recognition will also be conferred on singer-actress Sharon Cuneta, stage director Tony Espejo, the Madrigal Singers, the Dance Company and the Spirit of 67.

The awards night, directed by Al Quinn, will be hosted by Vina Morales, Heart Evangelista and Derek Ramsey. RPN 9 airs the event.

Radcliffe in TV movie

LONDON—Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe will play the son of Rudyard Kipling in a television movie about the author, ITV said Monday.

John Kipling died in World War I, and Nick Elliott, head of drama at the network, said the Iraq war would be part of the subtext of "My Boy Jack," which will begin filming next year.

"For many people my age, the First World War is just a topic in a history book," said Radcliffe, 17, who played boy wizard Harry Potter in the blockbuster film series based on J.K. Rowling's books. "But I've always been fascinated by the subject and think it's as relevant today as it ever was, with young men still sacrificing their lives in the name of war." *AP*

'Invincible' No. 1 flick

LOS ANGELES—Football season started early as Mark Wahlberg's "Invincible," a Walt Disney tale about a real-life walk-on who signed with the Philadelphia Eagles in the 1970s, debuted as the top weekend movie with $17 million.

The previous No. 1 flick, New Line Cinema's "Snakes on a Plane," lost altitude in its second weekend, falling to sixth-place with $6.4 million, a steep 58 percent drop, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Invincible" stars Wahlberg as Vince Papale, a substitute teacher who made the Eagles' special-teams squad in open tryouts.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations, official trackers:

1) "Invincible," $17M; 2) "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," $8M; 3) "Little Miss Sunshine," $7.5 million; 4) (tie) "Beerfest," and "Accepted," $6.5M; 6) "Snakes on a Plane," $6.4M; 7) "World Trade Center," $6.39M; 8) "Step Up," $6.2M; 9) "Idlewild," $5.9M; 10) "Barnyard: The Original Party Animals," $5.4M. *David Germain, AP*

Samuel Jackson goes on a cinematic 'camping trip'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN WE HEARD THAT **SAMUEL L. JACKSON** was starring in a gung-ho chiller flick titled "Snakes on a Plane," we thought to ourselves, "What a waste of talent."

After viewing the movie, however, our reaction is no longer quite so snitty. Even good actors are entitled to go on a slam-bang, suspense-chiller wingding every few years or so, as long as they have a slap-happy time doing it. And Jackson appears to be having exactly that in "Snakes on A Plane."

The movie's title is another funnybone of catty contention that deserves a few paragraphs of its own. One of the most literal titles ever written, it says everything about the movie that needs to be said, and leaves absolutely nothing to the imagination.

For a few minutes, we tried to think up "better" titles for Jackson's latest starrer, just to make a point that perhaps needn't be made:

What about "Hiss," we thought? Boo. "Terror at 30,000 Feet?" Horrors. "Slither Hither and Dither?" Oh, stop! "Snakes on a Plane" doesn't sound all that trite as a movie title after all.

As for the film itself, it's a fun if flashily over-the-top creeper-chiller caper about what happens when a witness to a crime is flown by the FBI on a plane that the murderer fills with deadly snakes to dissuade the witness from testifying against him?

That plot premise alone is worth its weight in—popcorn. It's unlikely, far-out, silly as all get-out, a cheeky invitation to camp it up, shrieking all the way in a messy but fun combination of terror and laughter.

The people behind the camera outdo themselves in thinking up really campy and outrageous plot developments that enable them to keep the shrieks coming, as the bodies pile up around the constantly decreasing number of survivors.

On the other hand, to their everlasting credit, Jackson and the movie's other actors resolutely refuse to camp it up. Instead, they opt to play the film's outlandish scenes with utter seriousness and realism.

It is this wise decision that keeps the production from disintegrating into a glob of leering horror-comedy shticks and facile double-takers.

Thus, the film's combination of campy storytelling and realistic acting makes it more than just a predictably campy horror romp. And Samuel L. Jackson survives his "Snakes on a Plane" camping trip with his thespic reputation intact.

'Bin Laden's Spy in America'

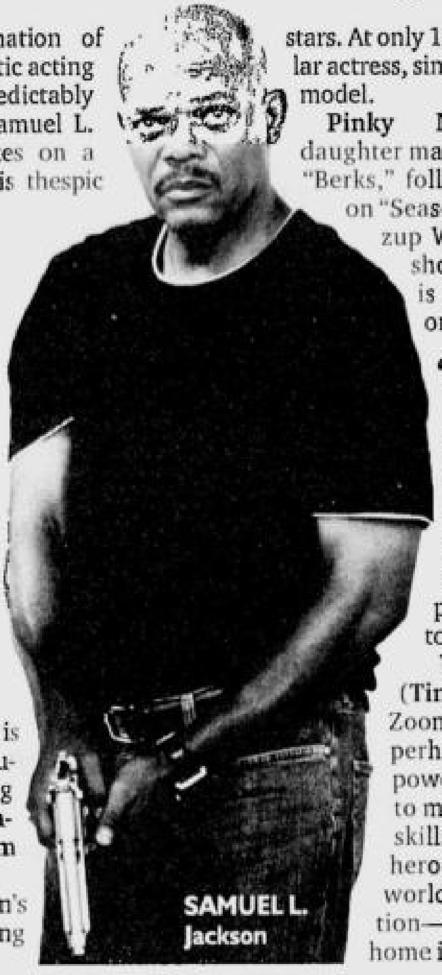
At 9 p.m. on Sept. 10, National Geographic Channel premiers the two-hour special, "Bin Laden's Spy in America." The remarkable story of Ali Mohamed, a master spy and senior operative for al-Qaeda working within the United States, but with terrorist tentacles that reached all over the globe.

Karel Marquez

Teen icon **Karel Marquez** is this week's guest host on Studio 23's "Breakfast," joining *barkada* regulars **JC Cuadrado, Patty Laurel** and **Atom Araullo.**

Karel is one of Tinseltown's most accomplished young stars. At only 19, she's already a popular actress, singer, VJ and commercial model.

Pinky Marquez's talented daughter made her acting debut on "Berks," followed by appearances on "Seasons of Love" and "Wazzup Wazzup" as one of the show's first Tadjocks. She is currently seen weekly on "Asap."



SAMUEL L. Jackson

'Zoom'

The new adventure comedy "Zoom" explores the untapped hero in all of us. It tells the story of four kids who, because of their extraordinary powers, just can't seem to fit in.

With the help of Jack **(Tim Allen)**, aka Captain Zoom, an out-of-shape superhero who has lost his powers, they learn to how to make use of their special skills and become superheroes bent on saving the world from certain destruction—as soon as they make it home in time for dinner!

Manilow's Emmy

LOS ANGELES—SINGER BARRY Manilow wanted more than a good doctor in the operating room where he had hip surgery Monday. He wanted his Emmy Award in there, too.

Hours after Manilow won the Emmy for outstanding individual performance in a variety or music program, he underwent hip surgery at an undisclosed Southern California hospital.

Manilow came through the operation "swimmingly," then headed back to his home in Palm Springs, California, publicist Carol Marshall said. *AP*

SHANG CINEPLEX

① THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

② LITTLE MAN
MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

③ YOU ARE THE ONE
MTRCB PG-13
12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

④ SNAKES ON A PLANE
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special
MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
(EXCEPT FOR DEVIL WEARS PRADA AND MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND)
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P90 for Cinemas 1-4 P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, and in conjunction with other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

YOU DIE IN THE GAME—YOU DIE FOR REAL.
PLAY IT TO DEATH.
STAY ALIVE
In Theaters August 30
Solar Entertainment Corporation
NOW SHOWING
at Robinsons Movieworld
galleria, ermita and pioneer

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SNAKE ON THE PLANE PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:05,3:25,5:45, 8:05,10:30	LITTLE MAN R13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:05
YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13 1:05,3:10,5:15, 7:20 9:25	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:35,3:55,6:15,8:35

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440-1
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777
THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SNAKES ON A PLANE	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	3 LITTLE MAN	4 YOU ARE THE ONE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 LITTLE MAN	2 SNAKES ON A PLANE	3 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE LOST CITY	5 STAY ALIVE	6 YOU ARE THE ONE	7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 YOU ARE THE ONE		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX YOU ARE THE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE LOST CITY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 CLICK GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LITTLE MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX YOU ARE THE ONE	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		
	3 LITTLE MAN	4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	5 SNAKES ON A PLANE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 MORTUARY	3 SNAKES ON A PLANE	4 LITTLE MAN
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 SNAKES ON A PLANE		
	3 LITTLE MAN	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	5 STAY ALIVE	

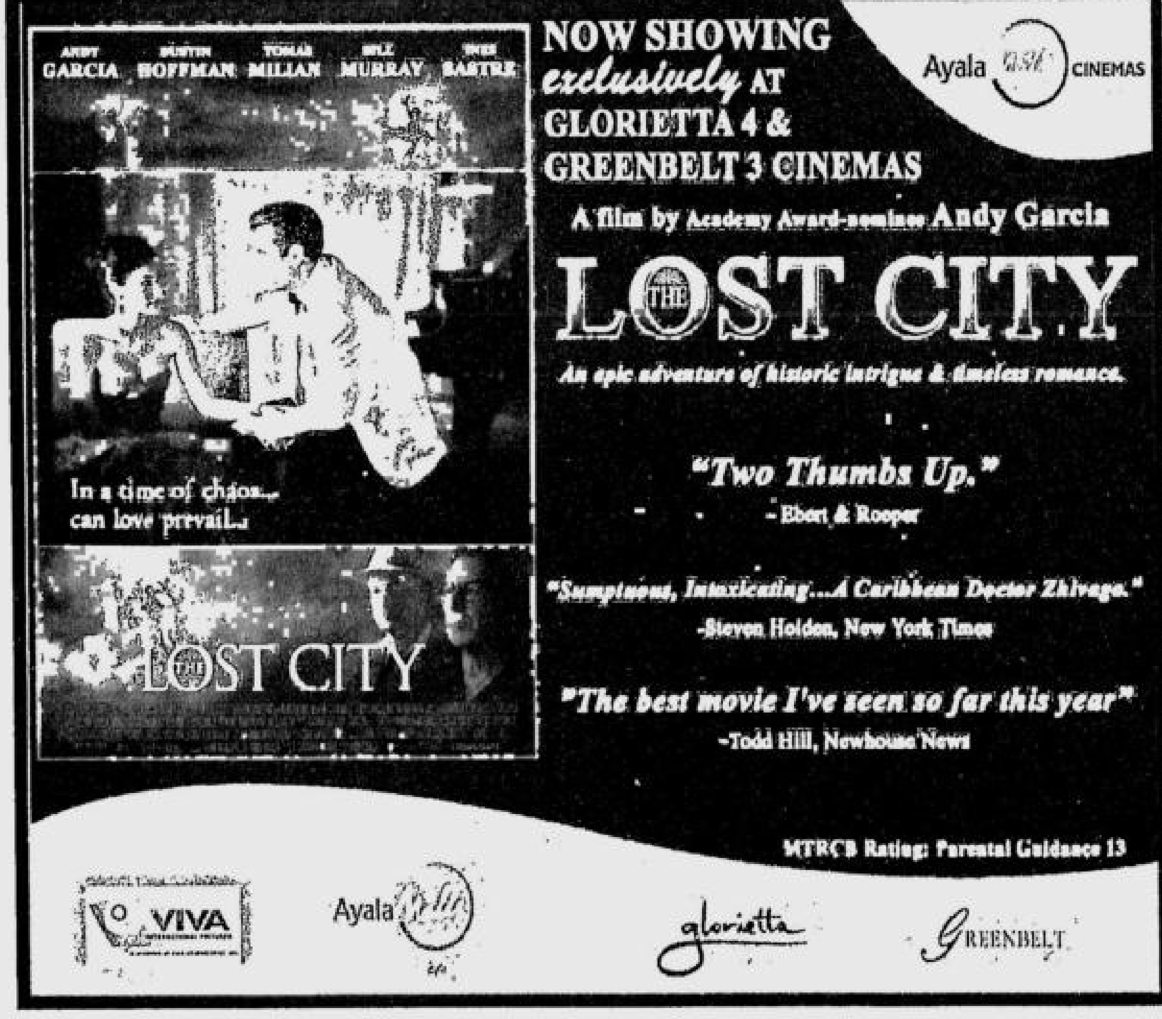
At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
39th BPI Installment Madness August 30 to September 17, 2006	Convergys Family Day September 3, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Ballet Academy September 3, 2006	Kris Lawrence Mall Tour September 2, 2006

GREENBELT
Samba Nights at GB 2
September 13 & 27, 2006

Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR.
at REP's Globe Theater - Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Ode To The Pasig River
Extended until September 17, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org



ANDY GARCIA DUSTIN HOFFMAN TOMAS MILIAN BILL MURRAY INES SASTRE
In a time of chaos... can love prevail...
THE LOST CITY
NOW SHOWING *exclusively* AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
Ayala CINEMAS
A film by Academy Award-nominee Andy Garcia
THE LOST CITY
An epic adventure of historic intrigue & timeless romance.
"Two Thumbs Up."
-Ebert & Roeper
"Sumptuous, Intoxicating...A Caribbean Doctor Zhivago."
-Steven Holden, New York Times
"The best movie I've seen so far this year"
-Todd Hill, Newhouse News
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
VIVA glorietta GREENBELT

Ayala
Double Midnight Madness SALE
This Friday and Saturday up to 12 Midnight
September 1-2, 2006
Extended Sale during mall hours on September 3
UP TO 70% OFF
On selected items only
citibank JUST SHOP glorietta

Fashion rockfest at the Big Dome

PENSHOPPE CELEBRATES ITS 20TH anniversary with a fusion of music and fashion that brings together 20 of the best rock bands in the country donning creations of the Young Designers Guild of the Philippines.

Dubbed "Penshoppe Denimlab Rockfest," the fashion concert is set at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 1 at 6 p.m.

Among the featured bands are Bamboo, Parokya ni Edgar, Hale and Sugarfree.

Classical night

Sinag Series 2006-2007, in cooperation with Music Theater Foundation Philippines, presents "On Wings of Song" featuring Marvin Gayramon with guest artists Ana Feleo and Lena McKenzie on Sept. 9, 8 p.m. at the Sinag Arts Studio.

Classically trained singer Marvin Gayramon won first place in the National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) collegiate level, solo voice category.

While still studying at the University of the Philippines College of Music as a Fides Cuyugan Asensio scholar, he was already accepted at the Pacific Music Festival in the Barougue Vocal Program in Sapporo, Japan, as an academy member coached by internationally recognized style and vocal teachers. He was Philippine representative to the 9th Rosa Ponselle competition for Vocal Arts in New York City and a semifinalist at the Jeunesse Montreal International Competition for Voice in Canada.

Marvin played the role of Quasimodo in the "Hunchback of Notre Dame" and bit roles in "Mulan," "Lilo & Stitch" and "Tarzan" in the newly opened Disneyland Hong Kong.

For ticket reservations, call 531-3491 or 09189441313.

SHOW TIME

Aug. 31

Freeverse and **SOS** at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Nostalgia at **Metro Phi Restobar**, Metrowalk, Ortigas

Stage Jam 2 featuring **Mel Feliciano, Solid Gold Dancers, Curacha, Wendell** and **Hush Band** at **Mugen Bar**

Sept. 1

The Jerks at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Route 70 at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 2

Coffebreak Island at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Flintstones and the Gang at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 4

Silk and Steel at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Tropical Depression at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 5

Dong Abay at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Acoustic Jive at **Merk's** ,Greenbelt 3

Brass Munkeys at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 6

RJ at **Discovery Suites**; 9 p.m. Call 899-3108

"Rock the Boundaries" The Oakley DRT Bar Tour with **DRT** and **Wunjoat '70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Richard Merk, Eddie Katindig and **Judith Banal** at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Side A at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 7

Brownman Revival at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Stella Ruiz and **H2O** at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Orange and Lemons at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 8

RJ 'n Friends with **Moonstrucks** at **RJTV Bar**. Call 899-1658

The Jerks at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Route 70 at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Fat Session at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 9

Spy at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Flintstones and the Gang at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Kearney St. at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 11

Parokya ni Edgar at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Silk and Steel at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Tropical Depression at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 12

Noel Cabangon at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Acoustic Jive at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

BAMBOO

Reality check: 'Starstruck' …

From page F1

testants," said Galvante. "But we would also be looking for an ultimate hunk or a matinee idol and an ultimate sweetheart, who will be developed as individual talents and not part of a love team."

At stake is a million pesos in cash prize and a management contract with GMA 7 for each of the top winners. Television audiences get to pick the winners by sending in their votes through text messages.

Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras, now two of the network's strongest love teams, emerged as the first "Starstruck" survivors. The second season produced Ryza Cenon and Mike Tan. Last year, the show discovered Marky Cielo from the Mountain Province and Jackie Rice from Olongapo.

But not all survivors are automatically bound for stardom.

At present, Jennylyn and Mark are the only bright stars among the "Starstruck" talent pool, which also includes the second placers and other finalists. Mike has yet to make a name for himself, while Iwa Moto, who placed only second last year, has emerged to be more popular than Jackie.

"Sometimes, it's a matter of attitude," Galvante noted. "They still have to work hard for their careers. But definitely, those who survived the contest were all very talented."

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CINEPLEX
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
PREMIERE
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CLICK

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 MIAMI VICE
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 TAMARA
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 LITTLE MAN
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 CLICK
2 LADY IN THE WATER

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 LITTLE MAN
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MORTUARY

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433894
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 STORMBREAKER
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 THE BREAK UP

THEATRES
1 LITTLE MAN
2 YOUR AR THE ONE
3 CLICK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 LITTLE MAN
2 YOUR AR THE ONE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SEE NO EVIL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 THE BREAK UP
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CLICK

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 STAY ALIVE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 YOUR AR THE ONE
6 LITTLE MAN
7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
8 YOUR AR THE ONE
9 MORTUARY
10 SUKOB

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CLICK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 OH MY GHOST

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341937
1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DOLBY) SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3 KATAWAN KO ANG LANGIT
4 AMERICAN HAUNTING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 S. P. L.
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SEX EDUCATION
5 AMERICAN HAUNTING

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 RESERVED

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 WHORE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CLICK
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 RESERVED

Benna Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL

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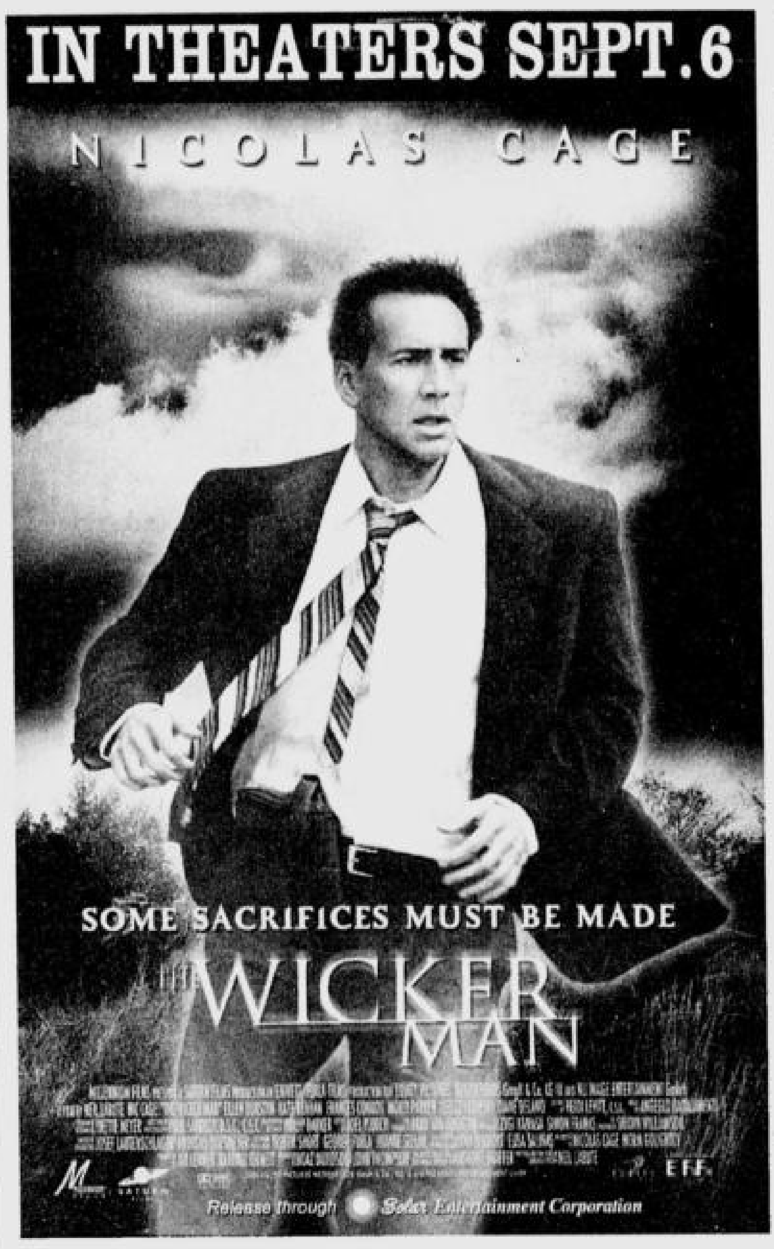
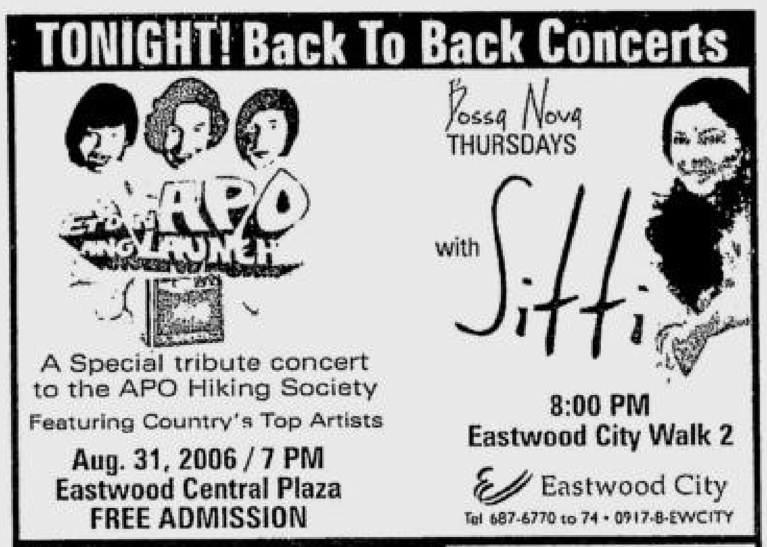


IN THEATERS SEPT.6
NICOLAS CAGE
SOME SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE
THE WICKER MAN
Release through Solar Entertainment Corporation



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APO
A Special tribute concert to the APO Hiking Society
Featuring Country's Top Artists
Aug. 31, 2006 / 7 PM
Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION

Bossa Nova THURSDAYS with Sitti
8:00 PM
Eastwood City Walk 2
Eastwood City
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Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 LITTLE MAN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
3 YOU ARE THE ONE 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:50 PG-13
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway Alimall FarmersPlaza
THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
Gateway Cineplex*10
FULL STADIUM SEATING

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
STAY ALIVE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
YOU ARE THE ONE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
LITTLE MAN 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
CLICK 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
SNAKES ON A PLANE 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:40 / 3:25 / 6:10 / 8:55
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

Alimall 5
YOU ARE THE ONE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
SUKOB 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
LITTLE MAN 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35
SNAKES ON A PLANE 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

Martin Nievera Live!
Watch the Concert King as he takes centerstage at Odyssey
Today on Level 2 of Gateway Mall
Mini-Concert starts 4:00pm • Autograph Signing until 9:00pm

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
1 STAY ALIVE 11:40 , 1:55 , 4:05 6:15 , 8:25 , 10:35 PG-13
2 LITTLE MAN 11:20 , 1:30 , 3:40 5:50 , 8:00 , 10:10 R-13
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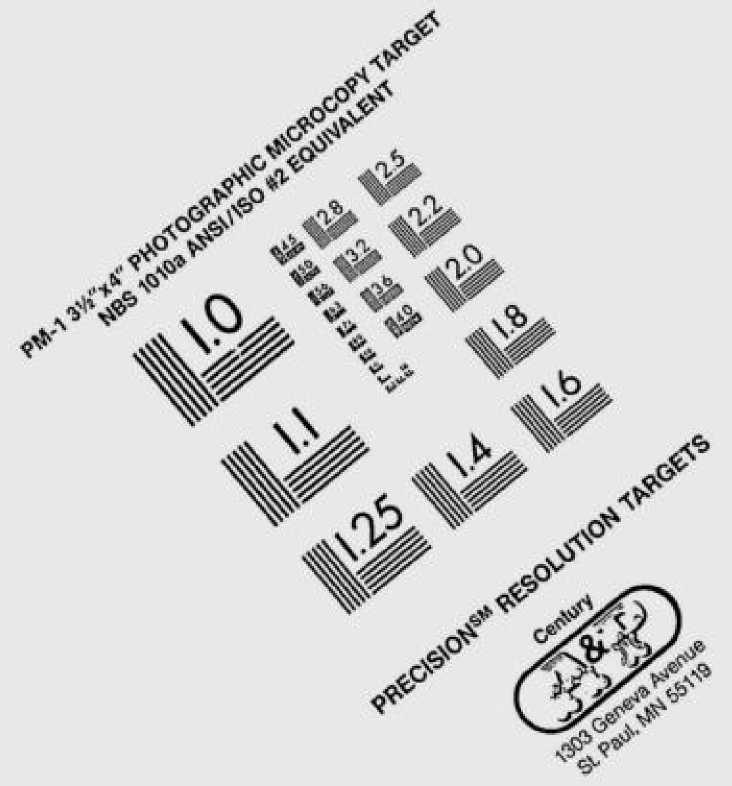
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE 11:45 , 2:05 , 4:20 6:35 , 8:50 R-13
4 YOU ARE THE ONE 11:20 , 2:00 , 4:40 7:20 , 10:00 GP
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 11:35 , 2:20 , 5:05 7:50 , 10:35 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
SEPT. 14 , 2006 DANITA PANER 8:00PM
SEPT. 15 & 16 , 2006 ERIK SANTOS & RUFFA MAE QUINTO 8:00PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO .. CLASSICO 8:00PM
Sept. 7,14,21,28,2006 ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT PENA 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 118
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635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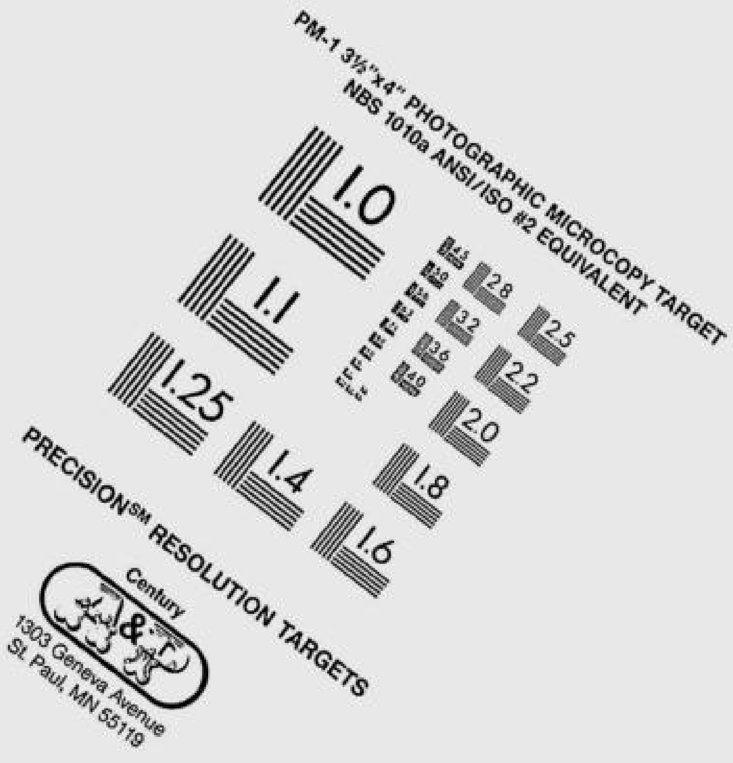
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119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PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

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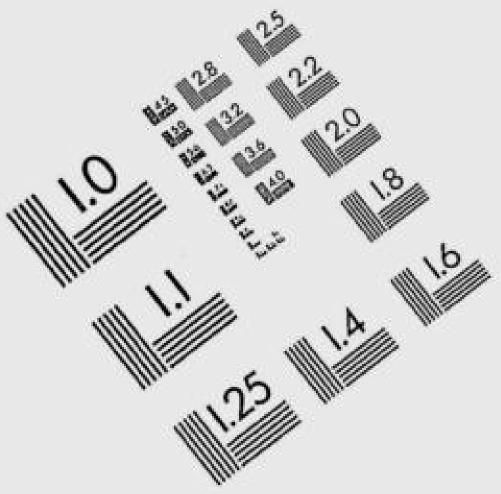
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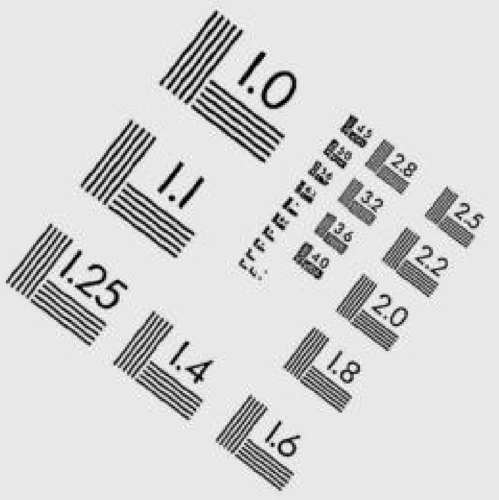
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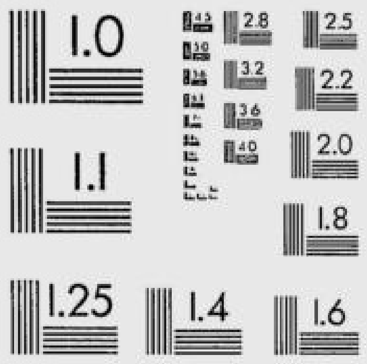
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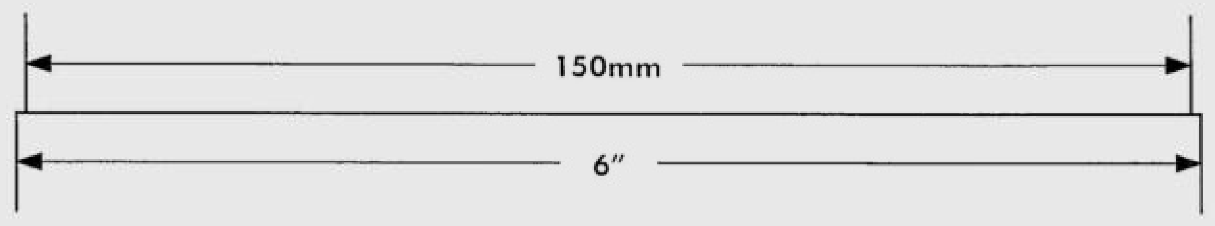

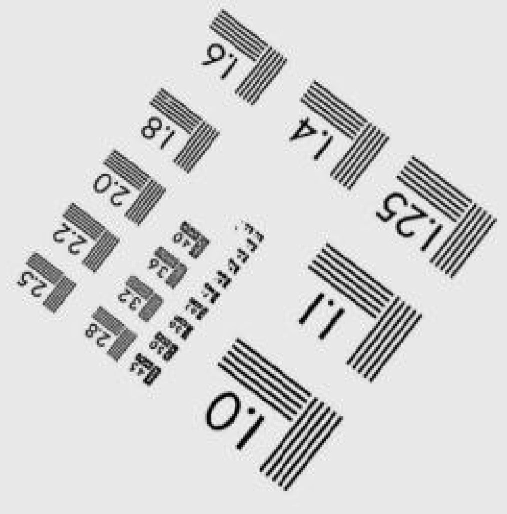
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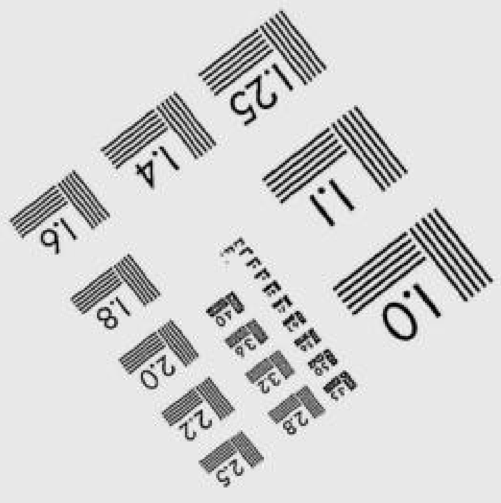
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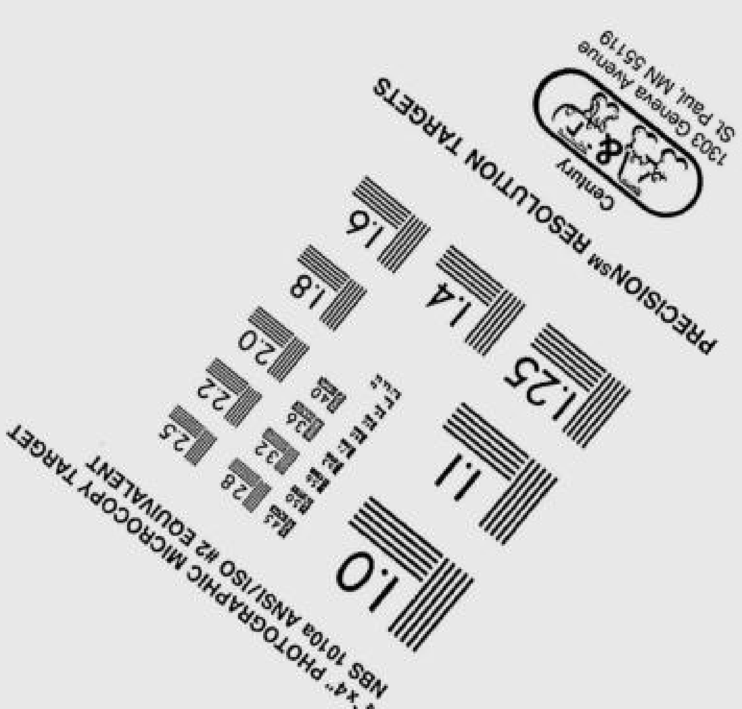
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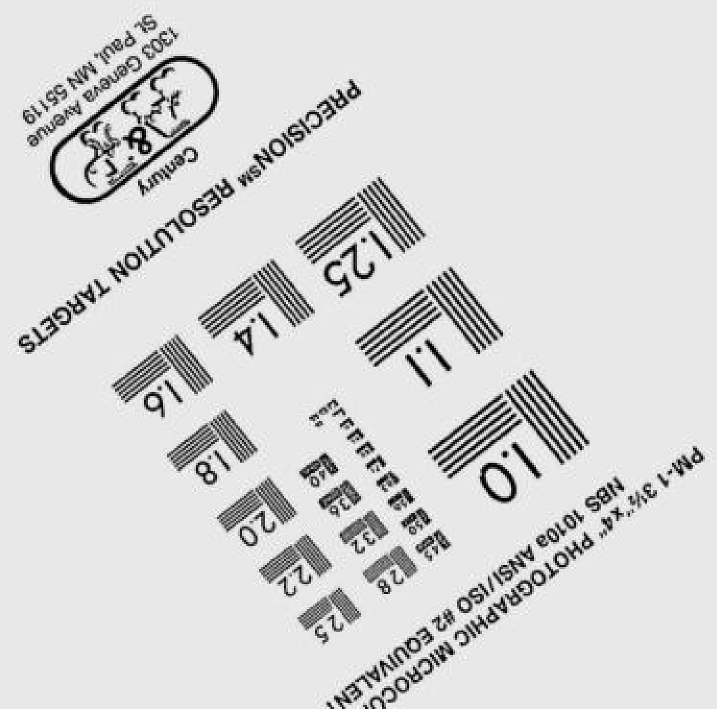
PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119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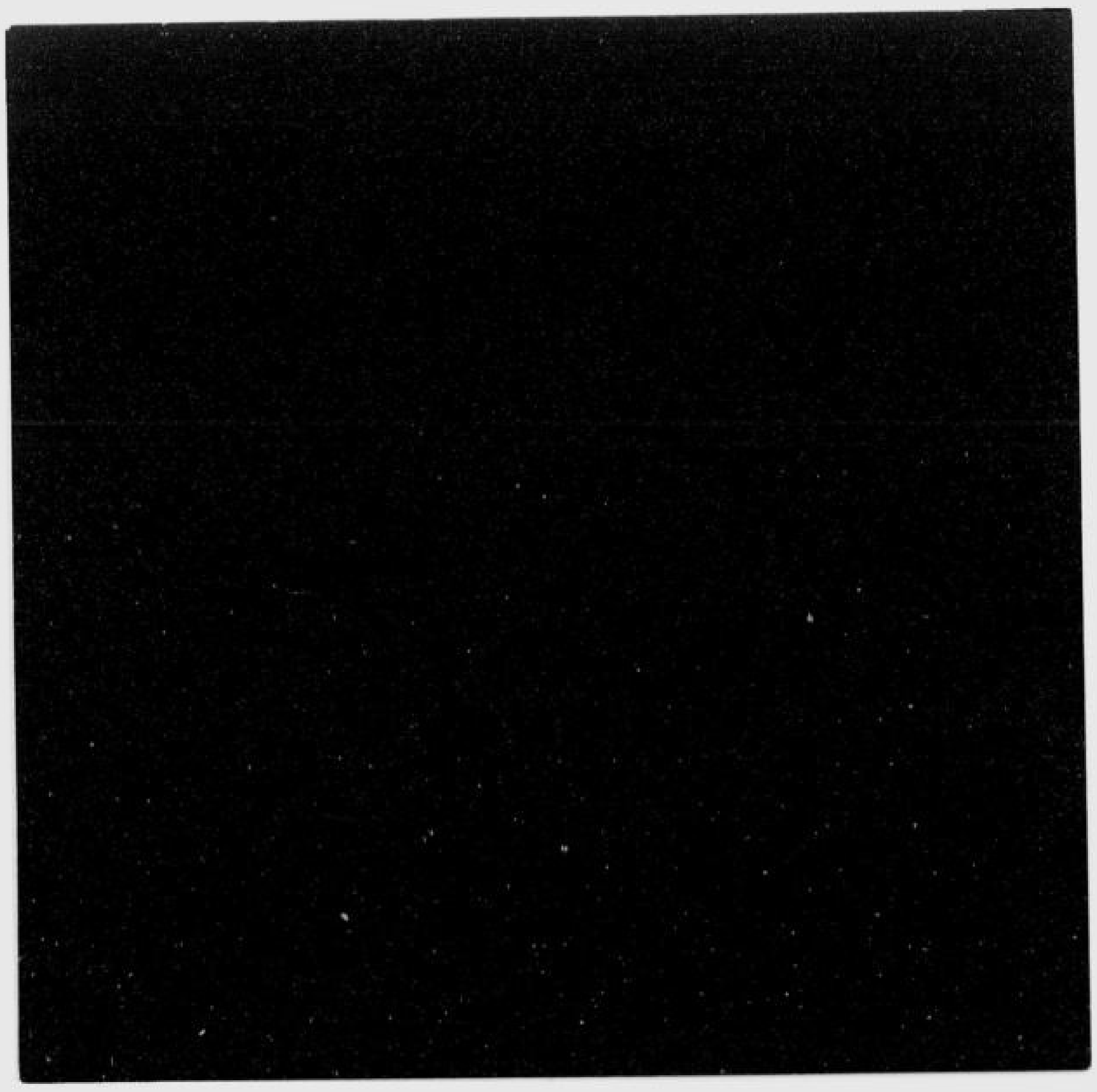

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